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Grimes County, Texas Chamber of Commerce

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PREFACE

The idea of producing a Navasota Historical Publication eventuated in the appointment of a Chamber of Commerce Commission on the writing of a history of Navasota. Members of this committee were Mayor Ralph Barry, Sellers Rogers, and Miss Maurine Chinski. The preparation of a historical manuscript for the book was to be performed by Miss Chinski. Collection of pictures for the publication was to be done by Mr. Rogers. Very early in the Centennial Year, Mayor Ralph Barry succumbed to a heart attack while attending a meeting at Beaumont, Texas in the interest of The Girl Scouts. Miss Maurine Chinski suffered a fatal heart stroke, a few weeks later, while reading a portion of her manuscript to a small group of friends in the Gulf States Auditorium at Navasota. Only about 75% of her work was completed at that time.

The untimely death of two members of the three member Historical Committee of the Chamber of Commerce created a situation necessitating changes in the type of book which could be produced in the very short time remaining before the July 3-5 Centennial Celebration. Miss Chinski's manuscript was not finished, and none of it was in final form for publication.

Confronted with the gigantic problem of taking up where death intervened, the Chamber of Commerce appointed Dr. Loyal V. Norman, Supervisor of Instruction in the public schools to prepare and edit Miss Chinski's manuscript for publication. At the same time the Chamber of Commerce appointed an Editorial Board to review the work of the editor and to approve or disapprove it for publication. Names of this committee appear below.

It should be pointed out with clarity that no one purports this to be a complete and exhaustive history of Navasota. Neither the editor nor the editorial board undertook the job of completing the history. The work of this group was merely that of preparing Miss Chinski's manuscript and the pictures for publication. No person need feel offense because of possible omission of names, places, events, or trends because the intervention of death precluded completion of this publication as originally planned. The Chamber of Commerce had the problem of publishing or not publishing what had already been completed, and it thought Miss Chinski's work too valuable to discard. It is hoped that the majority of readers will appreciate this fact. The book should be read with the above facts in view lest injustice be done the author and others connected with its publication.

Pictures for this publication were collected by Sellers Rogers and were arranged in the final manuscript by Mrs. W. S. Welch. The typing of the final draft of the manuscript was performed by Mrs. Jerry V. Post and Miss Mary Margaret McDonald. All profits from the sale of this publication go to the Chamber of Commerce.

GRIMES COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Navasota, Texas

Editorial Board

Loyal V. Norman
Mrs. Stratton Baker
Mrs. Jim Mabrey
Mrs. W. S. Welch
Gerald C. Fahey

Officers of the Chamber of Commerce

Lou Hertenberger - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - President
Marshall Croft - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Manager
Sellers Rogers - - - - - - - - - - - Surviving Member of Historical Committee

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dedication . . .

MISS MAURINE CHINSKI
Author

Miss Maurine Chinski, retired public schoolteacher, worked untiringly in the preparation of the manuscript for this publication. Her fatal stroke - a heart attack - came while reading an early draft of her manuscript before a group of friends in the Gulf States Utility Co. Auditorium.

MAYOR RALPH BARRY
Chairman, Historical Committee

Ralph Barry, Chairman of the Historical Committee which started this publication, was a real friend to all. He was a real guy who would sit by you at a football game and yell with you. He liked people, knew many, and encouraged all to do better next time.

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Chapter I

THE BEGINNING OF NAVASOTA

It was called Navasota from the Spanish named river by the same name just two miles away. Some say the name means nativity of De Sota; still others say a tribe of Indians roamed its banks and hence came the name. Lore has it that a negro slave was ordered by her mistress to set a hen down by the river bank. When the mistress asked about the hen, the old mammy said, "Lazzy, Missis, I naver sot her." To this day many old darkies call the river, "the Navasot."

Navasota is a small town. Actually it has less than 6000 population. We who come from those sturdy pioneers, who laid its foundation so solid and so sure have Navasota in our blood. We love it. Those, who in later years have come to call it home, love it no less because their roots are elsewhere.

It's a homey town where you know everybody and they all know you. Everybody calls everybody else by their first names.

When your neighbor is in trouble, you go to him to help in any way you can. You rejoice with him in his joys and successes. You grieve with him in his sorrows.

So perhaps Navasota isn't such a small town after all. It is big in so many things; big in understanding; big in sympathy; big in love for humanity. It's a big town with a big heart.

Daniel Arnold, one of Empresario Stephen F. Austin's original 300, applied for a league of land along the Navasota river, adjoining the William Millican league on one side and the John Kelly league on the other.

Being a married man of good habits and of proven industry and integrity, who promised to settle the land and to cultivate it according to the law and to fulfill all the obligations of the same, he was awarded the grant in 1831.

Shortly thereafter, D. Tyler received a 1/4 league grant which covered the south end of the present city of Navasota.

Navasota was built on portions of these two grants.

The league and 1/4 league lay in Montgomery county. In 1846, Montgomery county was divided; the Arnold-Tyler grants lay in Grimes County.

Ira M. Camp, grandfather of Louise Brown Gofner, Willie Brown Mabry, Malcolm Brown Clay, Ira Maud Camp House and Ethel Camp Farquhar, was a man far-visioned and of keen business acumen.

He acquired the entire Tyler grant. Some of it he got for a single shot gun; some as cheaply as ten cents an acre. He had a great many slaves and early he began to build rock houses out of native rock with slave labor. He built a rock hotel, a rock warehouse and the beautiful old Camp Inn on the Anderson highway, the ruins of which may still be seen. This old inn housed many notables in its hey-day. Miriam Luxton, mother of General Nathan Bedford Forrest of Confederate army fame, died there and is buried in the old Camp burial ground just across the road from the old inn.

An attempt was made to locate Navasota proper on the Camp properties in the south end of the settlement but Mr. Nolan, who owned land in the north end offered more agreeable terms to all concerned and the town was built where it is today.

Camp addition and Camp subdivision were sold to white settlers but a part which he named Cannan was sold to freed men and became Freedmantown.

Daniel Atchinson bought a large amount of land in the extreme north end of the settlement. His land included the Dorge property and a lot of Navasota river bottom land. He built his home on what is known as the old Knox place where Horace Knox was born and lived as a boy. He was very prosperous for a number of years but later had severe reverses. He owed Major W. B. Templeman so much money that he turned over his land to him and moved to Galveston where he engaged in business.

He gave the most part of Oakland Cemetery to Navasota for a burial ground and he also gave $1000 cash to be applied on building a school. Later when the first public school was built, it was called Atchinson Institute in honor of the generous donor of the $1000.

When the first settlers came to Navasota, they found a beautiful land forested with tall pines and live oaks. It was a land of gentle slopes and flower decked prairies. One part of Navasota was so low as to be almost swampy. In fact water often stood in the area where the City Hall stands and extended as

far as the old First National bank building. Ducks landed here every fall on their southward flight and early Nimrods had good hunting and early housewives a pleasant change of diet.

The earliest settlers to come to Navasota, some coming as early as 1846 and others as late as 1859 were James Nolan, Sr., James Nolan, Jr., I.M. Freeman and wife, D. Fisher and wife, Mrs. P.A. Smith, J.J. Cregor, W.T. Smitheal and wife, W.J. Peterson, Mrs. S.E. Bigger, Mr. and Mrs. Geisel, Chas. Ahrenbeck, Chris Froelilich and A. Rainbow.

To Judge James Nolan goes the distinction of being Navasota's earliest citizen. According to his granddaughter, Dorothy Clark Bednar, he came to Navasota from Mississippi right after Texas became a state, probably as early as 1846.

He had no grant or certificate of any kind but picked out a likely place to live and squatted. The place he chose for his first home happened to be land later owned by Mr. Bob Blackshear.

Judge Nolan brought with him in his oxen drawn wagon, his father and mother, a daughter and at least one slave. Aunt Maria Nolan, who lived to be almost a hundred years old and who never deviated in her affection for "Ole Marster's folks."

Besides his family, he brought with him a brown pet bear. His equipment consisted of several tents, a few crude pieces of furniture, a few pots and pans, bedding, farming tools, and seed. Besides vegetable seed, he brought cotton and corn seed.

He lived in tents until about 1855 at which time he began to buy up land. He bought 133 acres from M. J. Duke for 77 cents an acre; he bought other land as cheaply as 50 cents.

He built his first real home at the back of the property which is now the old Brosig home place and where Mrs. Watts Brown and Miss Nettie Brosig live.

It was double log house. Judge Nolan sunk a 60 foot water well on the corner of the place. He struck such a strong current of water that people came from all around and hauled the water away in barrels. Travelers, too, stopped to water their thirsty horses and to quench their own thirst.

Judge Nolan planted 15 acres in cotton. This land embraced the region extending from his log house covering the entire area about our churches except a plot of 4 acres which had been deeded by Dickson Greer and Jackson M. Duke to the school trustees for school purposes. It extended to the Camp properties on the south.

He built a log cabin under a big oak tree, which still stands in the yard of the Crittenden Hardy's home. Here the negro women who worked the crop left their babies on pallets and at intervals one or another would return to the cabin to see about them. Aunt Maria Nolan went in one morning and found her baby dead; a wildcat had gotten in and eaten the baby's face entirely away.

Nolan built a large hotel on the Washington avenue corner where J. W. Brosig later built a fine, large hardware store, and which is still owned by the Brosigs.

Many families had moved to Navasota by this time and the Nolan hotel was filled to capacity most of the time.

Every day after the noon day meal at the Nolan hotel, a floor show was put on for the guests or anybody else who cared to come. It was free and Navasota's first floor show, though it was not then known as such.

The big brown bear was brought out and fed a bowl of honey. That was his pay-off and he wouldn't budge until he had eaten it. Then he'd go through the gamut of his tricks. He waltzed, boxed and played dead. His partners were the negroes who worked about the hotel. They loved it because the guests tossed them coins.

In August, 1859, Mr. Nolan deeded to the H&TC railroad, 80 acres of land to be used as a right-a-way. He gave land to the Jewish citizens and the negroes for burial purposes and to the Christian peoples he gave the south end of Oakland Cemetery. Atchinson gave the rest.

Mr. Nolan died at the dinner table as a result of a sudden stroke. This was in 1879. He had given generously of his substance for the improvement of the town and he had enjoyed business successes, but he died a poor man.

Judge Nolan was never actually a judge but on one occasion he presided at a case when the populace wanted to lynch a criminal. Since then he was called Judge Nolan.

Navasota was the approximate scene of the death of Robert Cavelier, Sieur de LaSalle, who was treacherously slain by a member of his exploring party on March 19, 1687. LaSalle, a French Noble-

man, had carried on extensive explorations in the United States in the interest of the King of France.

The Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Citizens of Navasota erected a 14½ ft. bronze statue to the memory of LaSalle on the esplanade of Washington Avenue in 1930.

The French Government sent a delegation of good will representatives to Navasota on April 3, 1937 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of LaSalle.

LaSalle Monument
Erected by the Texas Society of the
Daughters of the American Revolution
1930

Unveiling the LaSalle
Monument, March 6, 1930

A View of Washington Avenue
Esplanade showing the LaSalle Monument

Prior to becoming a state, Texas had existence as an independent republic. Texas became The Republic of Texas in 1836 when General Sam Houston defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto, only 85 miles south of Navasota. In 1845 Texas was admitted to the Union as a state.

The first capitol of the Republic of Texas was at Washington-on-the-Brazos, eight miles west of Navasota. The constitutional convention of the Republic of Texas met at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

This Building, Texas First Statehouse,
Stands Today in the State Park at
Washington, Texas

The City Government

According to an ancient typescript on the early history of Navasota which was brought forth during the pre-Centennial days, the Texas Legislature granted a charter to Navasota for corporate privileges on October 27, 1866.

The corporation extended one mile in every direction from the depot. Under this charter an election was conducted for the office of Mayor. Wm. E. Jones was elected, and was thus the first Mayor of Navasota. He served two years.

It is remarkable that this account stated that some persons were opposed to the city government and desired to have it abolished. Many persons at Navasota then had fresh recollection of stateways in Europe where some cities with 20, 000 inhabitants had no mayor or city government as such, then.

Other persons who have served as Mayor of Navasota were J. M. Perry, John Arnold, W. S. Thomas, U. P. Melton, Frank Whitney, Dr. A. D. Harn, Richard V. Pye, W. D. Pritchard, A. P. Driscoll, Ed Blackshear, Chas. Kirk, Ward Templeman, Parham Yarborough, Hal B. Stoneham, J. T. Swanson, Ralph Barry, Jno. D. Rogers, Marshall Peters, Jarrett Cook Swanson, H. L. Lewis, A. J. Youens, Chas. Stewart.

At the present time, Marion Brown Thomas is City Manager, and Jarrett Cook Swanson is Mayor.

A letter from Jack Ross, Secretary of State, Austin, Texas dated January 19, 1953 addressed to Miss Maurine Chinski reads as follows:

"A thorough search of the records of this office reflects the following information regarding the year and history of the City of Navasota, Texas:

'The City of Navasota, in Grimes County, was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature on the 27th day of October, 1866.

'An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the City of Navasota, Grimes County and to grant a New Charter to the said city, and to repeal an Act, approved October 27, 1866. Incorporating the city of Navasota was passed on February 8, 1873.

Another amendment to the charter was filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the 23rd day of January, 1923, with the following as members of the Charter Commission: Jno. D. Rogers, Ward Templeman, R. A. Patout, Ewing Norwood, W. T. Taliaferro, J. W. Brosig, H. H. Knox, G. E. Rodes, W. H. Barry, Hal B. Stoneham, E. H. Terrell, Larry Jacobs, A. H. Spann, J. T. Evans, and C. C. Camp.

Cemetery

According to tradition, the first cemetery in Navasota began with the burial of a man who died in the Brazos River Bottom. Oakland Cemetery, the largest one in the Navasota vicinity, is the place where he was buried. There are reported to be 17 cemeteries in the general neighborhood of Navasota.

The Many Old Homes at Navasota

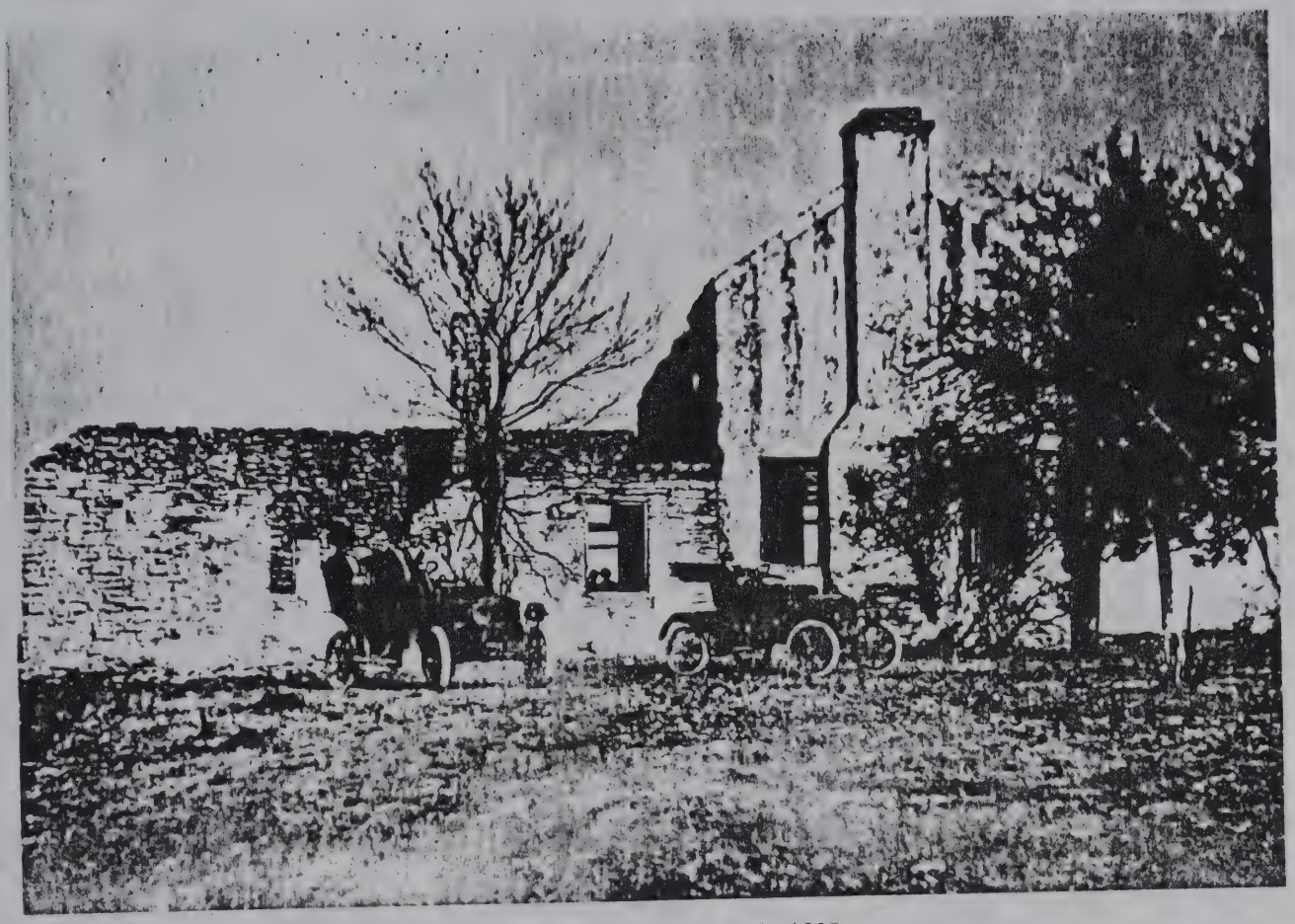
(Editor's Note: Most information under this caption was taken either from the April 4, 1940 issue of the Navasota Daily Examiner or from an early typescript filed with the author, Miss Maurine Chinski, prior to her death.)

At no place in the state of Texas or of the nation, can more interesting old homes be found than at Navasota. Some of the older ones in and around Navasota are in the neighborhood of 100 years old.

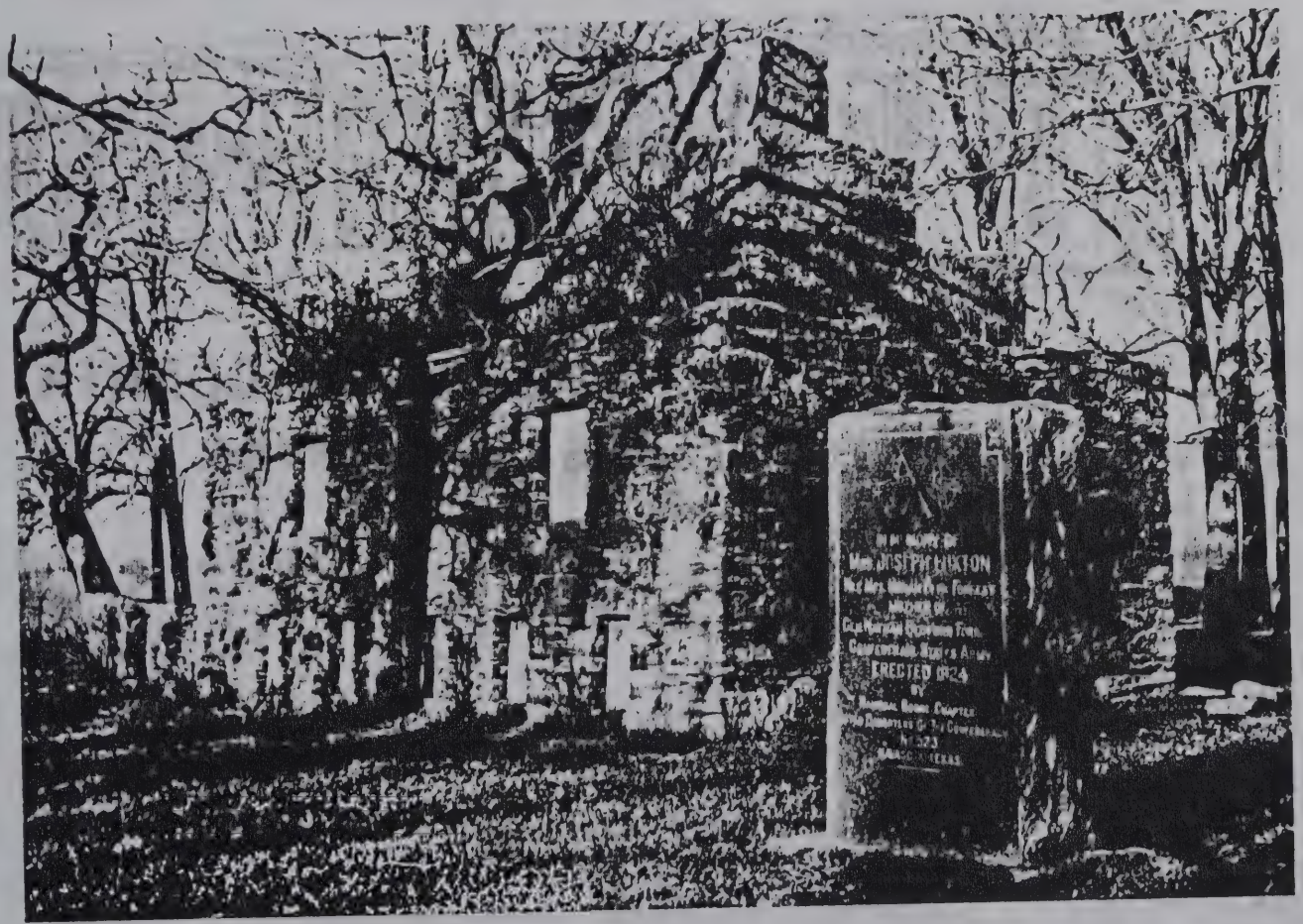
Several of the old homes have been renovated and are in excellent condition, while a few others are dilapidated structures yielding testimony of their veneration. Many of these old homes knew times as great social centers, and the hospitality of their owners was known far and wide. Navasota still bears the trademark of old southern hospitality, a gem of the culture.

The oldest home in this general vicinity is reputed to be the 118 year old rural residence of Mrs. Annie C. Fahey, which was built in 1836, originally as a log house of two rooms. This place, situated five miles south of Navasota, was constructed by the parents of the late J. H. Muldrow, who was the father of Mrs. G. S. Wilkerson and Mrs. W. C. Gibson.

Visitors to this old home can see the old rafters on the second floor that were pegged together. Rooms on each side of the center hall were equipped with rock fireplaces, having a chimney. The house was built in the shape of a T. It is said that this house has a bullet hole in it as evidence of a shot fired during the Ku Klux Klan days.



The Camp Inn Built in 1835



Grave of Mrs. Miriam Luxton, Mother of General Nathan Bedford Forrest near old sepulcher in old Camp burial grounds on Robert Foster place.

The first house said to have been built in Navasota, was constructed by J. T. McNair. It was made of rough lumber, and Mr. McNair sold groceries and furnished meals for 25¢ per day there.

I. M. Camp built the first rock house in Navasota in 1865 near the central railroad at a cost of $8,000.00. John Anderson was the chief mason on this job.

Ernest and Ferdinand Miller put up a two-story rock house on Washington Avenue in 1873. J. Davern was the chief mason. This house was reputed to have cost approximately the same as the Camp House.

The first brick house in Navasota was owned by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Yarborough in 1871 near the railroad on the west side of town. McAdory and Brothers were the chief masons and Ragsdale, Brooks, and Darrow did the woodwork. The total cost was $18,000.00.

R. B. Templeman came to Navasota from Palestine because he wanted to be on the H&TC Railroad which did not operate through Palestine at that time. He and a man named Elson went in the Dry Goods Business and continued until the store was destroyed by fire 9 years later. In November, 1873, Elson and Templeman began to build a handsome rock store on Washington Avenue below the railroad. It was a two-story structure costing $6,000.00. The chief mason was John Anderson.

Records testify that after the great fire of June 13, 1874, the city of Navasota enacted an ordinance forbidding construction of any structure from material not fire-proof, within designated limits of the city.

In 1875 J. T. McNair built a large rock cotton warehouse. It was one hundred feet square, and would store five thousand bales of cotton besides other goods. The chief mason was James Davern, and the building cost was about $15,000.

According to one tradition, The Fanthrop Inn at Anderson, erected in 1856 was the first and only stage coach inn in this part of the country. It was the nationally known stopping place between Longview and San Antonio. The house was formerly in the shape of an L, but was reduced somewhat about 30 years ago. The rest of the house remained unchanged since originally constructed. Original numbers remain on the interior of the second story. It is a two and a half story structure, built of lumber fetched from the piney woods. General Sam Houston, hero of San Jacinto, made this stop regularly in his travels to this part of Texas. R. B. Templeman stayed at the Freeman Inn when he came to Texas for the first time.

During the spring of 1884, a circus stayed at the Freeman Inn, and a child of 13 years of age, daughter of one of the circus directors, became suddenly ill and died in a short time. The child was buried on the lot by the Blackshear Home (Freemand Inn.) On a door-post of the building the inscription written in pencil, is still clearly visible: "Aggie Horluck, April 27, 1887, age 13."

In 1874, John H. Owen bought the lots and stables once owned by Peterson and Bennett on Washington Avenue. He built a large residence and stable of rock. James Davern was the chief mason and Marguder did the work. The construction cost exceeded $10,000. The house was fifty by 100 feet, and the lower story was used for a residence. The livery stable was filled with sawdust to prevent sound from reaching the second story. At a later time the Owen Residence was used as a rooming house. It had thirteen rooms on the second floor. A hall divided the house, there being rooms on both sides of it. At the time that the building burned, the upper story was in use as a rooming house, but the lower floor was used by Mr. Floyd as a cotton warehouse.

The best sources around Navasota today have it that the I. M. Camp house, built on the Anderson road in 1835 is the oldest house in this immediate vicinity. Workmen required two years to construct it. Mr. Camp lived in the house 44 years. It became The Camp Inn and was known nationally as a stage coach inn, affording travelers genuine hospitality. It was a two story rock building having a hall running from front to rear. The walls of the rooms were plastered. The fireplaces were unusually large, accommodating four large logs at once. The parlor of the Camp home was on the left side of the hall, and a cellar with a trap door was built under it. A large rug covered the trap door. It was said that no one living in the Camp Inn suffered from Yellow Fever in the 1867 epidemic; although over 30 visitors were present at the time. The 1900 storm took the roof from the Camp House.

Mrs. Loftin, later Mrs. P. A. Smith, had a hotel built in 1864. J. W. Peterson was the principal workman.

J. P. Clough and Hub Bonner kept a commission house in the rear of the depot, where a rock house was at one time. This building, later occupied by Tom Miller, was erected in 1860.

Mrs. J. T. McNair built a rock warehouse in the rear of the depot at a cost of $12,000.00. In

1873, Ahrenbeck and brothers, built a wagon shop and mill house at a cost of $2,000.00. W. B. Matthers established a broom factory here in 1870.

Navy Ship Named Navasota

A copy of a letter from the commanding officer of a United States Naval Ship indicates that it was named from the City of Navasota. The letter was dated April 20, 1953, and was addressed to Miss Maurine Chinski. A copy of the letter follows:

U.S.S. NAVASOTA (AO-106)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Sasebo, Japan
20 April, 1953

Dear Miss Chinski:

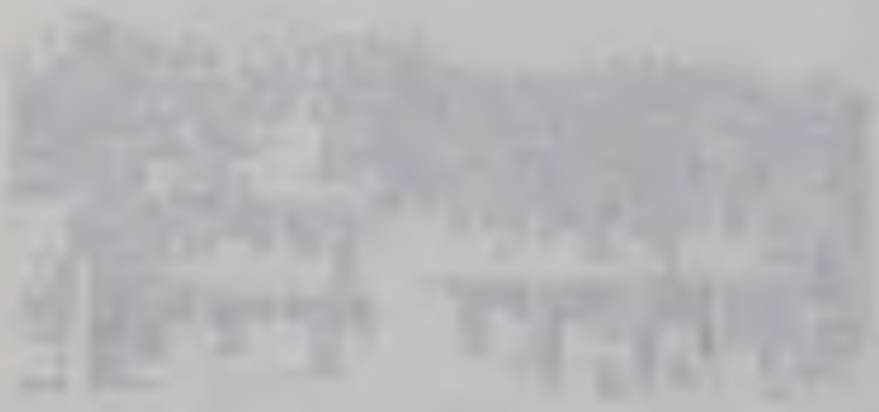
Thank you very much for your kind note concerning the origin of the name "Navasota." I have published it to all the crew, and we have all found it most interesting. We take pride in our ship and are very glad to have this additional information relating to her. The enclosed photo of the NAVASOTA may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. J. Galatin,
Captain, U.S.N.
Commanding Officer

U.S.S. Navasota (AO-106)

Freeman Inn at Anderson, Texas



Chapter II

COMING OF THE RAILROADS

The first survey of the H&TC railroad went through Anderson. The story goes that Anderson citizens turned down the opportunity of having the railroad come through Anderson because they did not propose to have any ripping snorting monster disturb their mules and their negroes.

Actually after due consideration, the railroad officials decided it suited their purpose best to bring it through Navasota since it would bring it closer to the Brazos bottom cotton and the upland timber to the cost for future shipments.

The road was completed to Navasota in September, 1859. The first trip over was made by an engine hauling a string of empty flat cars. By the time the train reached Navasota, the cars were loaded with passengers picked up in Houston and Hempstead.

Judge Nolan had planned a royal salute for the new train. He filled the box of a wagon wheel full of gunpowder, over which he placed an anvil. As the train came thundering in and drew up to a stop, Judge Nolan let go with the anvil. It did not work as he had planned. It backfired and broke the wagon box in a thousand pieces which flew far and wide. It was a miracle no one was hurt since the entire populace had gathered to see the train come in.

This was an influx of newcomers to Navasota.

Up to this time many families had lived in tents. Even businesses were housed in tents.

Town lots were laid out and streets surveyed by the railroad's engineer, W.E. Wood.

Mr. Nolan, a large property owner had his lots and streets laid out by surveyor, Fred Mills. All the lots were snapped up like hot cakes. Soon the town was a beehive of activity.

A depot was built much in the same place it now is. Ira M. Camp built a rock house on his land across from the depot. The building was used for the Camp Hotel. It is a notable fact that Navasota has not since that time been without a Camp Hotel. Generally they have been owned and managed by a generation of Camps.

Mrs. Lofton built a hotel where the old Citizen Bank building stands. Mrs. Lofton ran rather an exclusive place which was catered to by local people. She served delicious meals and entertained with big balls to which the local elect came.

Now that lumber was more easily available people began to plan to build permanent homes. J.T. McNair built the first house. It was a box house with a restaurant and grocery store to the front and living quarters to the back. He served meals night and day at 25 cents a meal. He did an enormous business with more customers than he was able to handle.

During the war, Mr. McNair was married to Miss Sue Michie. After the war, he built her a nice home in the locality of Mrs. Haynes Shannon's home. The McNairs had three children, Harry was a newspaper man and a writer. He was conceded to possess a brilliant mind. Tom was in the cotton warehouse business here until late in life when he went to Detroit and was successfully engaged in the automotive business. Lilly was one of our early teachers until she married John Hill, a Navasota merchant. She is still living. Her brothers died some years ago.

Col. Nat Fuller was the first depot agent. He served as agent for two years and was followed in order by Ed Neal, T.M. Freeman, Chas. Brockway, Alexander Campbell, S.P. Driscoll, Titus Johnson, then A.P. Driscoll again and Henry D. Patrick.

Mr. Driscoll was the town's tenth mayor. He worked for the railroad for twenty years. He organized a company of soldiers for duty in the Confederate army and was made their captain. He never saw actual duty however due to physical disabilities. He was placed in charge of a commissary at Cypress. His father, William Young Driscoll, was a confederate soldier, and his grandfather, Col. Martin Palmer, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born to his wife Betty and him, were six children; Mrs. Betty Hamilton, Mrs. Kate Chimene, Mrs. Jennie Humphries, Mrs. Wave Otto, and Mrs. Eva Pierson. There was one son, John Driscoll. All the children are dead except Mrs. Pierson who lives in Houston. Mr. Driscoll died in 1880.

Telegraph lines were run through Navasota for the Railroad and the government by P.D. Shepherd in 1862. J.M. Crichlow was the first telegraph operator.

J.M. Culbert, who was married to Miss Gussie Chinski, was an early operator.

At least one operator who managed the Navasota office rose to prominence. This man who began his career as a messenger boy in Navasota, was Belvidere Brooks. This happened after serving as telegraph office manager in many major cities. He became Vice President of the Western Union Telegraph Company of America, and he has two sons named Bruce and Bell, who live in New York.

Fred Dixon, now president of the Dixon Packing Company of Houston was a telegrapher here.

While Navasota was the railroad terminus, freight was sent here from all the surrounding country. Wagons came daily bringing flour, cotton, lumber, wool and meat to be shipped out. The drivers either slept with their load or beside it or often paid a small fee and slept in the wagon yard nearby. This was safer for the depot was generally filled with rough characters. Robberies were frequent and brawls and even killings were not infrequent.

The platform about the depot was always loaded with a tremendous load of in or outgoing freight.

Once the load was so great on the depot platform and that of Clough's warehouse adjoining, that the entire structure collapsed with a resounding crash. Crockery and china were crushed; whiskey, wine, brandy and molasses ran from broken barrels into a sea of slush. The local hogs belonging to Judge Nolan, Crawford Greer; in fact everybody's hogs got wind of the nauseous mess and came to root and swill. This they did until they were uproariously drunk. They reeled and staggered, grunted and squealed as if they were possessed with devils. If indeed, they could have found a sea to run down to, they too might have gone down to oblivion as did the hogs of Bible days. As it was, they must have had a frightful hangover.

When the debris had been cleared away, everything had been completely ruined except one glass lamp chimney which was found to be intact.

Ira Malcolm Camp was actually the projector of the I&GN railroad. He realized that if Navasota was to attain growth and prominence, it must tap the pine forests to the east and obtain the cotton shipments from Washington county and the Brazos bottom. He planned a railroad which would enable Navasota to do just that. Eventually he visioned a railroad which would extend to the Red River and on west to the Pacific Ocean.

He employed James Converse to survey a route several miles east and west. Out of his own pocket he arranged with the state for convict labor. The convicts were kept at night in his rock warehouse. In the meantime he tried desperately to get capitalists to back his railroad. Failing to get anybody sufficiently interested, he was forced to give up the idea.

He had spent about $5,000 of his own money before he realized that even he, a rich man, could not finance a railroad of that magnitude without backing, so he abandoned the idea. Today, part of Mr. Camp's old road bed may still be seen.

Navasota is situated on three railroads. In 1900, the main line of the I&GN ran from Longview to Laredo as it does now. In that year, it built a branch line called the Fort Worth Division from Spring to Fort Worth. That line comes through Navasota.

In 1902 a branch line of the I&GN was completed from Navasota to Madisonville, a distance of 44.7 miles. Mayor Charles Stewart declared a holiday when the first train left for Madisonville. The entire citizenry gathered at the depot to see it off.

It was in operation until Jan. 17, 1944. At that time an order came declaring that run to be the last. Next morning the rails were disconnected from the I&GN line. This step was taken after the company was consistently losing money due to the advent of buses and motor freight lines.

Enough of the road was left to allow a switch engine to operate to haul poles to and from the Navasota Creosote Works in the south end of town.

Captain Jack Harris was the first conductor on the Branch. J.W. (Jim) Terry, was conductor on the work train that hauled men and materials to build the road; again, he was conductor on the work train that carried the men and equipment to dismantle the line.

A short railroad 7 miles in length was built from Navasota to Montgomery in 1877. Its charter bore the date of Dec. 19, 1877. It was called the Central-Montgomery road. Its first officers were G. Jordon, President; F.A. Hyatt, Vice President; T.W. Blake, Secretary, Treasurer.

The Santa Fe Railroad yearned for a part of the great lumber tonnage which was being shipped from the pine forests of East Texas, and which was being monopolized by the H&TC and the I&GN roads.

They saw the Central-Montgomery railroad as an opening wedge into the timber territory. In 1882, George Sealy and Associates of Galveston acquired all the stock of the Central-Montgomery. This was a step in the right direction but it was six years before they had extended the road as far as Conroe and still eight years later before they actually reached the Piney woods and got into the lumber business in a big way.

The Santa Fe built another 29 miles from Navasota to Sommerville in 1883.

The Santa Fe Company maintains an agent in Navasota. Mr. A.L. Hardy is the present agent and has his offices in the old freight depot which was built in 1887.

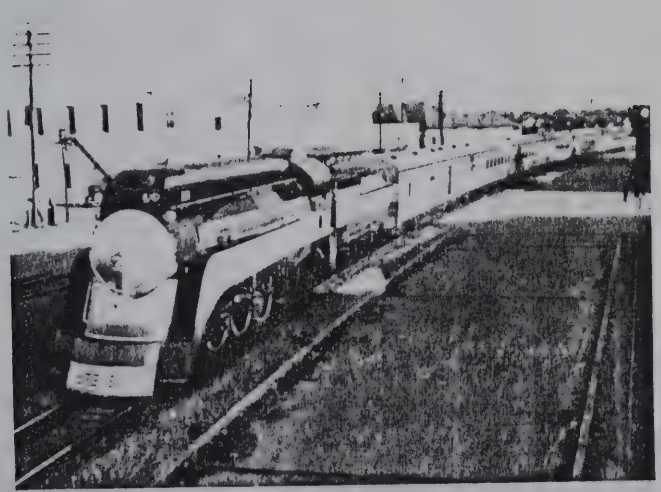
Joint telegraphers and ticket sellers for the H&TC and the Santa Fe, are B. Garrett, C.A. Settle, N. Craig, and Ray Ward. Their offices are in the Union Depot.

The exact date on which the express began to operate in Navasota is not known. The H&TC railroad reached here in 1859 so it is probable that express service followed closely.

Contracts were made with the railroads by the express company as the railroads were built. They paid to the railroads a fixed percentage of their revenue and participated in any deficit. The Texas Express Company was probably the first Company to operate here. Later it became the Wells Fargo and is now the Railroad Express Agency.

E.P. Ayers affectionately known as "Agent" to everybody in town, began his service as express agent in 1916. He served the company here for 36 years. He retired from the service to lead the life of a country gentleman, March 1, 1954. He was fire chief for the Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club and for several years was county chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Committee.

Navasota Depot - Built During the 1880's



Early Streamlined Train, 1937

View of Railroad Street

Chapter III

SOME MAJOR DISASTERS

By spring 1861, Navasota had grown by leaps and bounds. It resembled a young metropolis.

Then came the war. Everything stopped dead off. Business was at a stalemate. No new industries came in. Few buildings were built and trade had stopped.

Most of the young men had gone off to war, leaving behind the women and children, the very old and the disabled.

By the time four years had elapsed, the time it took to lose the war, Navasota was in a sad state. Slaves had been freed; many of its choicest young men had been killed in battle; others chose to settle elsewhere. Everywhere was chaos, confusion, dilapidation and want.

Soldiers who had returned were naked, barefoot and penniless. They were disgruntled at losing the war; they were disgusted at not being able to get any pay so they felt justified in seizing anything that belonged to the government in lieu of the debt which they considered the government owed them.

A few military stores consisting of kegs of gunpowder, cotton, bayonets, salt and swords were stored in Parker Smith's warehouse.

The soldiers burst into the warehouse, broke open the powder kegs and scattered the powder all over the place onto the adjacent sidewalks. One soldier filled a shell with powder, stuck a match to it and rolled it toward the warehouse.

There followed a terrific explosion; followed by roaring flames. Some of the adjacent buildings were blown to bits, others were consumed by the flames.

The conflagration was so terrific that the bucket brigade was helpless. A few buildings by some freak of circumstances were not burned. The platform about the depot and Clough's warehouse was burned. The Nolan hotel was burned to ashes. The depot and Mrs. Lofton's hotel were not burned.

Bales of cotton were hurled 300 feet into the air and were found in remote parts of town. All the warehouses about the depot were destroyed and all the stores in what used to be known as the Templeman block were destroyed.

A Mr. Henepin was known to have been blown to bits and two unidentified skeletons were found in the ashes of the Glass and Brigance warehouse. Across the railroad, the Ackerman store and post office were destroyed and Dr. Ackerman had to pay the government $140. 00 for stamps that were burned.

Navasota was plunged in deepest gloom after the fire but not for long. Pioneers, wishing to make their town work, threw off their depression and began building better and stronger than before.

People came from other places to fill in the gaps; homes and store buildings were built; new enterprises bringing with them new money, came. Cotton was selling for 25 and 35 cents a pound. Gold and silver money were in abundance. Once more Navasota was on the up and up.

Navasota received its first charter in 1866. In 1873, it applied for and received a re-incorporation charter.

The city was governed by a mayor and a board of aldermen. There was a justice of peace, city marshal, tax assessor and collector, and superintendent of streets.

There has been no visitation of famine at Navasota so far as written records reveal. However, other devastating experiences have come this way. Tradition has it that two major floods have wrought havoc in and around Navasota. The one occurred in 1889 and the other in 1913, according to evidence reported. Pictures on the next page were taken during the 1913 flood.

For a few years following the great fire, all went well. Navasota was emerging from her swaddling clothes and was making rapid strides in growth.

In 1866, cholera broke out. Before it could be controlled, 30 persons had died, mostly colored.

Just a year later, when the people had ceased to fear, a far worse epidemic broke out. People became ill with very high fever accompanied by a jaundiced condition. It was pronounced yellow fever.

By the middle of August there had been 15 deaths, all white people but two. In October there were 119 deaths, all white but 14. In all cases where colored people died, they were mulattoes. No black person was known to have died. In November, with the cooler weather, the worst was over; there being but three deaths that month.

The panic that the epidemic created was terrific. Out of a population of 3000, only 400 remained in town. The people fled precipitously on foot, in carriages, in wagons and carts, buggies and drays; just any way at all, just so long as they got out of the pestilent stricken city.

Some died before they reached their destination. Others had no destination, just a thought to get away. The panic that the epidemic created was worse and did far more damage than four years of war.

The mayor, W. E. Jones, fled in great haste, leaving the government in a state of great confusion.

Every crisis develops its heroes and this was no exception.

R. H. Geisal, a brave and forthright young man, only 24, assumed the duties of mayor and tried heroically to calm the terrified populace. He nursed the sick, encouraged the well, and helped bury the dead. He went far out in the country to help if he heard of a new case of fever. He died at the age of 39. He was a great-uncle of Adalia Miller Crittenden.

Most of the doctors stayed on the job. The ones who remained, worked until they were exhausted.

Dr. Joseph H. Baylor was stricken with the fever. He went to his sister-in-law's (Mrs. Ellen Matthews) home, and directed her to fix him a cup of castor oil. He swallowed this down and wrapped himself in a heavy blanket. Then he lay down to either die or sweat the fever out. In 24 hours he was clear of fever, the shortest case of yellow fever on record.

The Matthews home was in sight of the cemetery. Dr. Baylor said that he lay all night with a burning fever and could not sleep. He said he watched the eerie lights bobbing up and down in the cemetery and heard the thud of clods as they were shoveled into the graves. It was a ghastly experience for the stricken man, but burying the dead had to go on night and day.

F. W. Brosig, father of Mrs. Eleanor Brosig Brown, Wallace Brosig, and Nettie Brosig; Joseph Brooks, grandfather of Edith Sayler Canada of Missouri, and Helen Salyer Anderson and Walter Salyer; Isadore Bock, affectionately known as "Uncle Bock," were untiring in nursing the sick and burying the dead.

Mr. Brooks had a lumber yard. He and Mr. Joseph Backloupe, father of Will Backloupe and Beulah B. Blackshear, made coffins night and day. They did not leave the shop and they took turns in getting a little sleep. Mr. Backloupe had been an apprentice cabinet maker in Richmond, Virginia, for seven years. He was born in Genoa, Italy and came with his parents to Tennessee. He came to Navasota in 1866. He served with the 38th Tennessee Infantry in the Confederate Army. While on furlough he was detailed to nurse the wounded and even did amputations. For these, he used a little saw. This he preserved together with his gun, saber, and bullet mold, as mementoes of the war.

The coffins that he and Mr. Brooks made were merely boxes put together of rough lumber. The victims were wrapped in a sheet or blanket and buried as early as possible.

There is a story that Mr. Backloupe tied a piece of raw meat outside the shop door. The air was so contaminated. that in a short time the meat had turned completely green.

Will Curtis, for almost fifty years, a sexton at Oakland cemetery, told me that people were buried so hurriedly that no record was kept of who was buried where. He said that he dug up one skeleton of a woman that had turned over on her face. This might be a tall tale, but it could have happened.

By 1868, the epidemic was over and Navasota had to rebuild almost from scratch.

Oscar Coe & Co. Barn - 1914
Location of R. M. Love Store - 1954

Big Sale of A. J. Alexander - 1916
Location of R. A. Patout Store - 1954

First National Bank Building
Formerly Old Miller Hotel

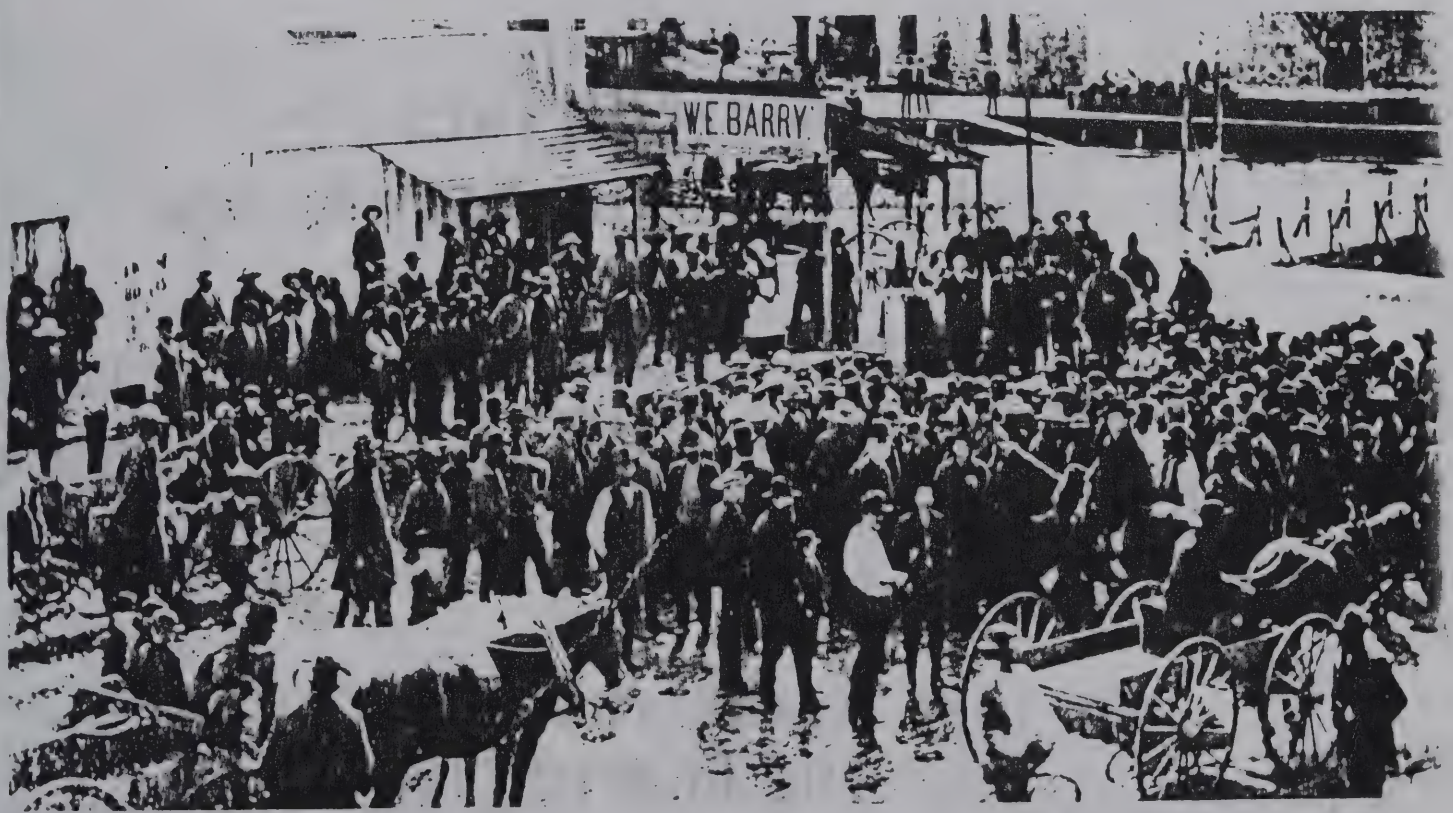
First National Bank Building
Several Years Later

City Hall built in 1903

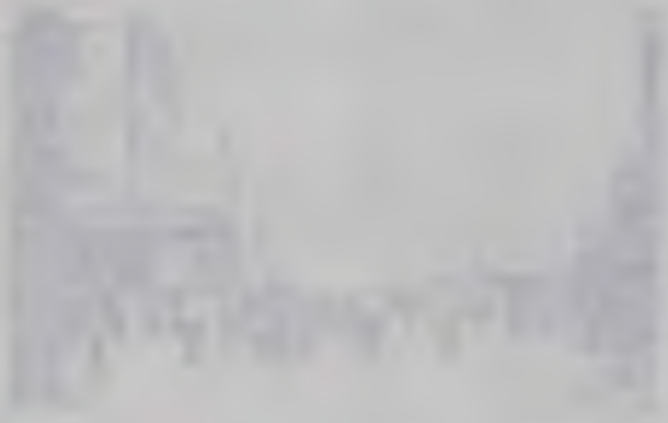
Bird's eye view of Navasota
in 1920

Labor Day Parade in 1921

Street Scene in 1920's



Early Business District - 1895



Chapter IV

POSTAL SERVICE

Navasota counts its birthday as the day when it began its first postal service. This was June 24, 1854. The service was discontinued for a time but re-established in 1857.

According to postal records, the office was closed during the war between the states, and re-opened on October 18, 1868. At that time the postoffice was in the depot.

Prior to the war, the postmasters, in order, were: Jermiah Lee, J. J. Spurlin, James D. Harris, and Harrison Crenshaw.

Even before we had a postoffice, the fame of Texas with its unlimited opportunities, its rich lands, broad prairies, towering oaks and pines, and its fine waterways, had spread abroad, and Navasota already had a goodly aggregation of families. They came chiefly from the older Southern states, bringing with them large numbers of slaves, oxen and cattle.

Colonel Holland, who had secured a league of land which bordered the Arnold league, had settled with his family on his land between Navasota and Anderson at a place called Ten Mile; later Holland Creek. He called the place Hollandale, and tried very hard to make the postoffice town at this place, rather than Navasota. However, Verplanck Ackerman, who had already been named postmaster by the Confederate government, was in 1865 named postmaster by the Federal government. He came to Navasota from Washington-on-the-Brazos to make it his home. He was born in Coeymans, New York, and came to Texas in 1834. He received his medical degree from a medical college in Castleton, Vermont. His first wife was the widow, Holtzclaw. To these two was born one son, Edward Cabler Ackerman, who was married to Miss Georgia McMiller. After the death of Dr. Ackerman's first wife, he married Cathrine McCarty, a direct descendant of General David McCarty, who served in the revolution under General Washington.

Before coming to Navasota, Dr. Ackerman was in business in Washington. He owned three stores along the Brazos and operated a steamboat between the Gulf coast and Washington to Port Sullivan. Port Sullivan was a station on the Brazos opposite Hearne. The family still has Dr. Ackerman's pilot's license.

The H&TC Railroad offered to build a railroad from Hempstead to Washington, thence to Caldwell and Belton, if the citizens of Washington would put up $12,000.00. The powers, being so short-sighted, thought because they had a steamboat line plying the Brazos, carrying freight and passengers, that their transportation problem was settled.

Freight rates were exhorbitant and Dr. Ackerman urged his friends to raise the $12,000.00. They refused and he was so disgusted that he sold his interest, and moved to Navasota.

He bought land from James Nolan and built a store where J.C. Penney operates his store. Here he carried on a mercantile business and kept the postoffice.

Dr. Ackerman was a man of outstanding character. Once during the war between the states, when medicine was scarce, he sent Mr. John Matthews, who was clerking for him, to London, to buy calomel and quinine. Mr. Matthews went to Brownsville, where he got an English ship, which took him to London. He brought back a trunk full of the drugs. Some of the drugs were used for the soldiers; some were kept for the relief of the settlers.

Again, near the close of the war, the food situation became very acute. There was not enough food for the white families to say anything of the great number of slaves to be fed. Dr. Ackerman sent E. M. Ackerman to Milan county to buy 75 head of hogs. The hogs were purchased and driven overland through Navasota, thence to Graball, where they were turned loose to fatten on acorns, pecans, and corn; all of which were plentiful there. When winter came, they were butchered and provided enough meat for the entire community.

Dr. Ackerman died of Pneumonia, December, 1865. He was survived by his son, John M. Ackerman, and two daughters, Georgia A. McMiller, and Hattie A. Gudger.

W. J. Jones succeeded Dr. Ackerman as postmaster. He was followed by John M. Godsey, who served from his appointment until Sept. 2, 1867. James E. Teague was postmaster until April 17, 1868.

James E. Teague was the father of Webb Teague and Judge Hilary Teague. His sons were both educated for the bar. Judge Hilary Teague practiced law here for a number of years and served as city attorney

and as county judge at different times. Mr. Webb Teague was one of the heroes of the great fire which almost wiped Navasota from the map in 1865. He was a member of the bucket brigade who fought so valiantly to put out the flames.

He was burned so severely that for a year he was completely sightless. He could not bear light, and for that year he stayed in a darkened room. Finally he learned of a doctor in Indianapolis who might help him. He made the trip north and his vision was restored to a point, but he was never able to resume his law practice.

Children of Webb Teague and Mrs. Teague are Mrs. Eula Lott, Mrs. Mattie Rather, Mrs. Laurie Smitheal, and the late Massey Teague.

Jesse M. Perry was appointed postmaster in April 5, 1869; Aaron Poer, March 21, 1870; Volney Caldwell, March 6, 1872; Dr. R. Rigdon Quinney, May 13, 1873.

The Quinneys came from Anderson to Navasota about 1870. Dr. Quinney was the father of Miss Carrie Quinney, one of Navasota's early and well-loved teachers. She was educated at Hamilton College in Lexington, Kentucky; a school patronized by girls from prominent southern families. She was married to Captain T. B. Cobben, captain of the Navasota Guard and junior partner of the law firm, "Boone and Cobb." Captain Cobb became one of the state's foremost lawyers. He practiced in Houston before moving to San Antonio where he attained considerable prominence.

His son, Tommy, who was born in Navasota, was also a lawyer, having served as city attorney for a period of years in San Antonio, and is now living there.

M. Camp was postmaster, beginning February 6, 1877; followed in May the same year by Dr. Quinney. Adrian Garvin was appointed March 15, 1882.

Mr. Garvin was Agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. He was the father of Virgil Garvin, a baseball great. He began his baseball career with the Texas League in Sherman and Denison. Later he was bought by the National League, and pitched for New York Giants, and Chicago. His pitching arm failed him, and he went out to California to recuperate. He was not able to make a comeback due to his health and died in California. His wife was Eugenia Deadrick of Navasota. Mr. Adrian Garvin's other children were Mrs. Lillie G. Peeples and Mrs. Pearl G. Swanson.

Captain P. A. Smith was postmaster from 1886 to 1890. He was one of Navasota's most important early citizens. Like Dr. V. Ackerman, he was born in New York State in the town of Houseville. When he was a young man he went to Springfield, Illinois to teach school. Abraham Lincoln, also a young man, was practicing law there. The two became fast friends.

Mr. Smith came by wagon train to Texas in 1857. He first stopped at Hillsboro, but moved on to Navasota in the early '60's. He lived here until his death in 1902. He was identified with many enterprises. He built a rock house on Railroad street, which was used for a hotel. It was operated by Mr. Smith and known as the P.A. Smith Hotel. He built an opera house and brought plays and stock companies here which generally played in much larger towns. He operated extensively in real estate and had a large furniture store.

When Abraham Lincoln became President, he wrote to Mr. Smith and offered him a post in Washington. Mr. Smith declined the offer, replying to Mr. Lincoln's letter that he had cast his lot with the south. He was twice married; first to Mrs. Lofton, a widow, and later in life he was married to Mrs. Annette Mistrot Daunis, sister to the famous Mistrot brothers who operated the first chain stores in Texas. Mrs. Harry H. Smith is his step-daughter, and her husband was his nephew.

Benjamin Lowrie was appointed postmaster, February 28, 1896. He was the father of Lula L. Teague, Eugene, and Kit Lowrie.

George Jones whose tenure began March 19, 1891, was the father of Miss Ida Jones and Jim Jones. Both of them worked in the postoffice.

A. W. Kennard was postmaster from March 14, 1894 to May 16, 1896. He had two daughters; Mrs. Edna K. Jones, who died some years ago, and Corrine K. Norwood, wife of Shields Norwood, Sr., who lives in Brady. Miss Ida Jones succeeded Mr. Kennard, and was postmistress until 1902. She was a lifelong member of the Baptist church, and participated in all its activities until her death a few years ago.

J. M. Sloan, took the office in 1902. He came to Navasota from Anderson. He was active in business and civic affairs. He was in the hotel business, grocery business, and still later owned a hardware store. The Sloans had five daughters and a son; Mrs. Mary Wilson and Mrs. Mattie Coe of Navasota,

Mrs. Josie Hardy and Mrs. Cora Holland of Vidor, the late Mrs. Kathrine Williams, and J. M. Sloan of Palestine.

William H. Brown, postmaster from 1914 to 1922, was one of Navasota's outstanding citizens. He was a large landowner, and had extensive farming interests. His father came to Grimes county from Little Rock, Arkansas in 1848. The land which the elder Brown purchased from Miliam Burney is still in possession of two of his granddaughters; Mrs. Willie Mabry and Mrs. Malcolm Clay. Mr. Brown's mother was Cynthia Clark, a direct descendant of William Rogers Clark. Mr. Brown was a member of the first graduating class of A & M College.

He was married to Eliza Camp, the youngest daughter of Ira Malcolm Camp. She was born in the old inn, the ruins of which may still be seen on the Anderson road.

J. M. Sloan held the office a second time from 1923 to 1926.

Jesse Garvin came next. He was postmaster from 1926 to 1928. He went to South America for a major oil company in 1928 and his wife Mrs. Imogene Haney Garvin was appointed in his place. Mr. Garvin lives in Carlos where he is engaged in farming. Mrs. Garvin lives in Bryan where she owns a children's shop.

Mrs. Willie Mabry, daughter of the late Will H. Brown, served as postmistress from 1933 to 1940. She lives in Navasota and is actively identified with the civic, religious, and social life of the city.

Clyde Prestwood became postmaster in 1940. Prior to this time he was in the grocery business. He was married to the former Adeline Brown of Anderson. One son, Clyde Lee, was born to the union. Mr. Prestwood was educated at the State University in Austin where he made a name for himself in track and baseball; being one of the greatest of that era. He was widely known for his acts of benevolence and kindness. He died in 1952.

Miss Clair Spann, assistant postmistress, held the office until the appointment of the present postmaster, Betram Hanson in 1954. Mr. Hanson was born and reared in Navasota. He is a man of keen intelligence and fine integrity, and a popular choice for his post. He is a member of the Baptist church and is its treasurer. He and his wife live with his mother, Mrs. B. Hanson.

The post office has had many homes on several different streets. It moved into the Federal building at the corner of Farquhar and McAlpine Streets in January of 1917.

The postal receipts have increased from $4,305.45 in 1892 to $49,123.56 in 1953. The office advanced from third class to second in 1907, and to first class in 1951.

The office has two city routes, three rural routes, and five star routes. When the first rural route was started, the carrier carried the mail horseback. Route two was established in 1917, and route three in 1948.

City delivery service began on April 1, 1929. Since then, additions have been added, which have made two routes besides parcel post deliveries.

The five star routes are from Conroe to Navasota, Normangee to Navasota, Madisonville to Navasota, and from Huntsville to Navasota. Three of the star routes were added when passenger service was discontinued on railroads.

In addition to handling letters, the postoffice delivers packages, maintains a postal savings service, sells internal revenue stamps, migratory bird hunting stamps, and U.S. Savings Stamps.

In the early days each letter had to be hand postmarked; later a machine which was hand cranked did the job. In 1927, an electric machine to postmark letters and cancel the stamps, was initiated. Also in 1927, the office received an automatic computing scale, which shows at a glance, the amount of postage required on parcels.

From pony express to air mail service is a far call, but all this has happened to Navasota's postal service in the last 100 years.

Chapter V

THE LOCAL PRESS

The Lone Star Ranger, published by Captain Joseph Lancaster, was first published in Washington, capitol of the Republic of Texas in 1849. Captain Lancaster lived in Washington with his family in what was for that era, a beautiful home.

Early in the fall of 1865, Captain Lancaster moved his family, his printing press, and even his beautiful home to Navasota. He came to Texas from England in 1838. He was Captain under Colonel Fannin's command, and was one of the few survivors at Goliad.

He claimed to be neither radical Democrat or Republican, but from the tone of his editorials, which I have read, I suspect he had Republican tendencies, though excerpts from other publishers claim his paper "takes a dignified stand for Democracy."

The paper was widely circulated, not only throughout Texas, but also in every Southern State. Subscription rates were $3.00 a year. Advertisements were $1.00 for the first inch and 50 cents for each subsequent inch. Newsprint must have been plentiful after the war, for "The Lone Star Ranger" published August 28, 1871 consisted of two large pages containing 42 columns.

This issue was teeming with items of interest. One intriguing bit was an advertisement setting forth the fineness of Mrs. Fannie Geisel's new restaurant on Railroad Street. It was called "Good Morning John." She was the widow of R. N. Geisel, one of Navasota's earliest and most prominent citizens.

Navasota's saloons, and there were many of them, had very classy names. W. J. Peterson called his "Sans Souci Saloon." He advertised a gas lighted billiard parlor where gentlemen might indulge in the gentle and manly game and where they could find current newspapers from all over the United States. His slogan was "Be merry while you may and drive dull care away."

A competitor, named Bob Smith, issued a statement of ten commandments for his Rialto Bar: (1) Thou shalt have no other landlord before me. (2) To no other place go on a spree. (3) Take not thy host's good name in vain. (4) Nor in my house be profane. (5) Give all my wines and liquors praises due. (6) And all my Intimiled cigars you'll find true blue. (7) Pay your bills without much talking; (8) Bob Smith is opposed to chalking. (9) Do not for anything pleasure mar. (10) Put on no airs at the Rialto Bar.

All the big steamship lines, the Mallory, Anchor and Morgan lines, carried ads in the Ranger as did the railroads over the country. One complete column was devoted to ads from Houston merchants, others to Galveston, New Orleans and New York City.

Mrs. Eva Lancaster was owner of Navasota's most exclusive Millinery salon. She advertised that her merchandise was imported from the emporiums of fashion in Europe and America. She claimed her merchandise was equal to that to be found in the most fashionable establishments of New Orleans or New York. She advised young ladies who were wishing the most elegant and fashionable styles in bridal millinery, to save the trouble of sending abroad, since she received monthly shipments from Paris, London and Berlin.

Kitty Lancaster, daughter of Joseph and Eva, was in school about this time, at Columbia Athenaeum in Columbia, Tennessee. It was a fashionable girls' school; Episcopalian in denomination, which was favored by Southern belles. It had the usual courses and some unusual ones. As reference in its Ranger advertisement, it gave only two names; that of Captain Joseph Lancaster of Navasota, Texas, and that of Governor John C. Brown of Tennessee.

The Ranger told of a freeman, having his hand so badly crushed in Shuemak's mill that it had to be amputated. The Shuemak referred to was the Schumacher Oil Works.

Mr. Lancaster moved to Austin in 1872, seeing a chance for a larger and more profitable business, but he stayed only a short time. His health failed and he returned to his home in Navasota.

The Lone Star Ranger which had its beginning in 1849, died with Mr. Lancaster when he passed away in January of 1874. The Lancasters are all buried in Oakland Cemetery.

Captain P. A. Smith bought the press, type and other materials of the Texas Baptist, which had been published at Anderson, and which were sold at a public sale in Anderson in 1859. He moved his equipment to Navasota and rented a room from Mr. M. M. Felder on Railroad Street.

He immediately set up his press and started in the newspaper business. He called his paper "The Navasota Tablet." Major William Queensbury came from Anderson to be its first editor. The first issue was published July 1, 1869. Major Queensbury edited the paper for a year and was followed by W. B. Davis who was editor until 1874; John Callahan followed in 1875. He edited the paper for several years.

The oldest paper I've been able to find was published by Mr. Callahan in Oct. 1875. It carried almost a full page chronicling the arrival of "The Great International," Ten Allied Shows in One, Cooper B. Baily and Company Proprietors. They came in a special train of forty cars. There was a glittering parade led by cavaliers and courtly dames on prancing horses, and ending with a $25,000.00 seven octave steam piano. Admission was $1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. Tablet rates were $2.50 a year and 10 cents the single copy. Advertising was $1.00 for the first inch and 50¢ for each subsequent inch.

In this issue was an account of the death of Jesse Grimes Jr, 26. His father, Jesse Grimes Sr., for whom Grimes County is named, went to Milan County to bring the body back here for burial.

An issue dated November 9, 1876, carried a copy of President Grant's Thanksgiving Proclamation, signed by the President, and his Secretary of State, Hamilton Fish.

Also in this issue was the story of Mrs. Samuels, mother of James and Frank James. She was living in Fort Scott, Kansas. Because the newspapers suspected that her sons slipped in to see her now and again; detectives were constantly haunting the neighborhood much to the annoyance of her neighbors.

The Kansas City Times had asked her to leave Fort Scott and find a home far distant. She replied to the Times reporter who came to see if she was leaving, that her sons were thousands of miles away trying to earn an honest living. There were eight in her family: a daughter who had had to leave school to do the family sewing because detectives had thrown a hand grenade into her house and blown away her arm; a small son; Dr. Samuels, her husband, old and an invalid; an old darky who had been with the family for thirty-five years, who could do nothing for herself and refused to leave; an old and paralyzed negro slave, whom she refused to abandon; a little negro child, whom she had adopted; and an old aunt. "There you see, are eight of us, all helpless, all harmless, and why should we be hunted out of the house in which we have lived for thirty-five years." The address she gave when she left was Sherman, Texas.

The year of 1876 was election year. An editorial in the Tablet said it passed quietly in Navasota. Six hundred and forty-eight votes were cast. The Democrats voted 200 of them; the other 484 were Radical votes. The "falling off of the white votes was greater than that of the colored troops" reads the editorial. It went on to say that one gentleman said he did not care whether he had a president and that there was abundant reason to believe that many felt the same way.

In spite of the editorial, the Tablet delayed that issue until Saturday, hoping to have the presidential returns. A telegram was received from a Mr. McBride of the "Houston Age" which said Tilden was elected beyond a shadow of all doubt. Radicals are preparing to throw out enough ballots to change the result. Grant ordered troops to Florida for the pretext of seeing to a fair count.

It so happened that 184 electoral votes were cast for Tilden and Henderson, who were defeated by Hayes and Wheeler, who received 185 electoral votes. Later editors were Tom Maddox and George Garvin. The last editor was a Mr. Spangler. The paper did not sell out again, but like all good soldiers, "It just faded away."

Ed F. Blackshear, editor and publisher, established the Grimes County Review in 1894. This he operated until he went into partnership about 1903 with M. L. O. Andrews who owned the Navasota Daily Examiner. The paper became known as the Examiner-Review. Mr. Andrews began his paper on a shoestring. He tells the story that he had actually just $15.00 capital when he set up his press in a small shop and got down to business. A tramp printer happened along. Mr. Andrews hired him. Then everything went well until the end of the first month. The printer collected all outstanding accounts and, he, together with all the money, disappeared into thin air. Mr. Andrews hasn't seen him from that day until this.

It was very hard to make ends meet at this time and it was with difficulty that continuous publication was maintained. Mr. Andrews had often to get out the paper and then deliver it himself. Associated with him in the early days of the paper were a Mr. Jones and Shorty Beard. Shorty was part of the set-up for several years.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Blackshear were partners until 1909 when Mr. Andrews sold his interest to Mr.

Blackshear and moved to Houston.

Prior to this period there had been six newspapers in Navasota: The Navasota Daily Examiner--M. L. O. Andrews; The Grimes County Review--Ed F. Blackshear; The Navasota Tablet--Tom Maddox; The Navasota Patriot--T. A. Allen, and The Brotherhood of Man, edited by a man said to be a Spiritualist. The printing was done in the Patriot shop.

There was also THE NAVASOTA BUGLE, a Negro paper, edited by the Rev. Harkey Jackson, Methodist minister. The Examiner did his printing.

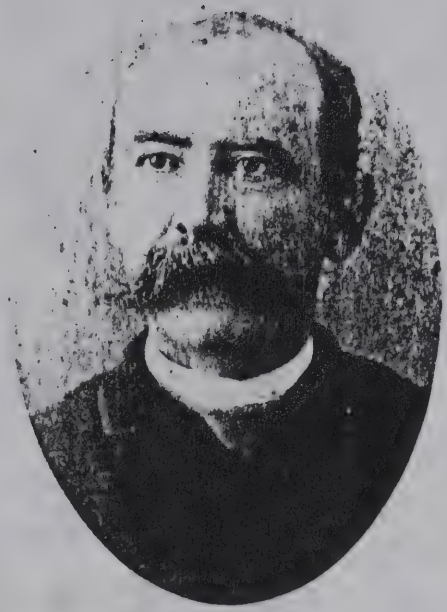
Mr. Blackshear, including his partnership with Mr. Andrews, piloted the course of the paper for 36 years. Willard Brooks, who is still associated with the Examiner-Review, started in as a carrier at the age of nine, and has continued with the paper for 57 years. Mr. Blackshear conducted an insurance business along with his newspaper. In January of 1922 he sold his interests in the paper to an association of individual stockholders, all businessmen of Navasota.

Mr. Blackshear gave his entire attention from then to the time of his death in 1940 to his insurance business. At his death he was Navasota's oldest native citizen. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. His widow, who still lives in Navasota is the former Miss Bessie Barry.

Mr. Adams published the Examiner-Review for a very short time. The owners then sold it to Sam and D. W. Lowe of Fort Worth. They published a weekly Review and a Daily Examiner. On May 1, 1924, the Lowes sold the paper to George T. Spears and J. G. Whitten. During the World War II the paper was leased to Willard Brooks and other lessees.

On February 13, 1947, the present owners and publishers, J. G. and R. H. Whitten, took over. They publish a good clean paper which has a wide circulation. R. H. is editor, publisher, and manager, with his father J. G. assisting.

First Navasota School - About 1880



S. H. Flake
Head of School - 1888

Navasota High School
1954

Chapter VI

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

There were no free schools in the early days. Children either had tutors or attended private schools. There a number of men and women conducted such schools, some of them excellent teachers.

Dickson Greer built a log house in his field and hired and paid a teacher to teach his children; Tennie, Ophelia, and Dave. Other children were allowed to attend also for a stipulated monthly sum.

On February 19, 1853, Dickson D. Greer and Jackson M. Duke deeded to Henry Mickleborough, Ed Demaret, James Ringold, William Greer, and Jacob Pearce, trustees for the Union School Society, four acres of land situated on Washington Avenue just across the street from where the Medical Center is now. This was to be used for school purposes or for any other useful buildings.

The first small wooden school house, The Union School, was built in 1854. A Mr. Wheeler was the first teacher. The little school struggled along. It had some excellent teachers, including William J. Terrell, Dr. O. O. Foster, a Mr. Newsom and Mr. Spencer. During the war it was sorely neglected and later during the yellow fever epidemic, it was completely suspended.

After that the house had to be made larger to accommodate the increased number of pupils. Seeing the necessity for a larger and better school, the trustees obtained a court order and sold off part of its four acres to H. D. Patrick, George Stoneham, and A. J. Stevenson. With this revenue they planned to build a new school.

Captain D. D. Atchinson gave to the trustees $1,000 cash to add to their fund, which enabled them to build a good frame building at the cost of $2,600. Mr. Joseph Brooks was the architect and when the building was completed, it was named Atchinson Institute in honor of the donor of $1,000; which made it possible.

The school opened in 1872. William I. A. Patton of Washington was the first teacher and taught for three years. A. C. Woodall of Huntsville followed. His assistant teachers were Miss Ella Felder and Miss Fannie Milton; later to become Mrs. J. Q. Yarborough. Incidentally, Mrs. Yarborough was the daughter of Governor Milton, war-time governor of Florida.

The school was sustained largely by tuition paid by its students. The Board of Trustees fixed the following rates: First class per month $2.00, Second class $3.00, Third class $4.00, and Fourth class $5.00. Each pupil within scholastic age received the benefit of the free school fund, as a credit on his account.

Navasota's first high school graduating class, who graduated in 1888 were Miss Maggie Chinski (Mrs. J. M. Callaway), Miss Katie Clark, Miss Clara Miller (Mrs. C. C. Chinski), Ross Mooring, Miss Maggie Mooring (Mrs. W. Rudd), E. A. Scott, Miss Madeline Baylor (Mrs. J. H. Powell).

S. H. Flake headed the school system at that time. He was an outstanding school man of his day. He was a stern disciplinarian, who believed "to spare the rod was to spoil the child." In spite of this, he was greatly loved and respected by parents and pupils. He was a member of the Baptist church and served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was married to Miss Laura Hamilton, one of his teachers. Mr. Flake resigned his position as school superintendent to accept a position as bank examiner.

During Mr. Flake's regime, there were only ten grades. The eleventh grade was not added until 1895. That year the students received their diplomas and were told if they would come back to school the following year they would receive an additional diploma. The class included Miss Ella Anderson, Mrs. Benton Randolph (Mr. Bowden Anderson's sister), Miss Francis Leake, Miss Mary Spann (Mrs. Robert Terrell), and Miss Lillian Ehinger. The class all returned to school and received a second diploma except Miss Ehinger, whose health had failed. The twelfth grade was added in 1941.

Eleven of the 67 teachers in the Navasota School System now are graduates of the Navasota High School. They are: Mrs. Maggie Spann Greenwood, Miss Trannie Franklow, Mrs. Lillian Roan Fuqua, Mrs. Maydell Curry, Miss Nina McFarland, Miss Bess Johnson, Mrs. Myrtle Barry Stoneham, Mrs. Ona Franklow, Miss Gladys Milroy, Robert Doan, and Clyde Lee Prestwood.

In 1892, the cornerstone was laid for Navasota's first brick school. The Tablet of that date described it as "a magnificent new public school building." Prior to the ceremonies to laying the cornerstone, there was a big parade headed by the Navasota Cornet Band, the Masons followed, the Knights of Honor, Legion of Honor, other organizations, citizens and school children followed.

The old cornerstone was given to Gordon Leake, when the old school was torn down in 1950. Mr. Leake mounted it on concrete and placed it at the entrance to his driveway, that it might become a historical marker. On two sides of the stone are the names of the city officials all passed on. They are: Mayor-Parham Yarborough, Councilmen-H. N. Bissell, H. Woodward, W. J. Foster, S. W. Walker, W. N. Norwood, I. B. Clark, W. J. Terrell and J. Codwell. City officers: Marshal -H. D. Schumacher; Assessor-Collector, C. C. Rollo; Treasurer, I. Bock; Secretary, M. C. Pickett; and Surveyor, Sam Wilson.

After the old Atchinson Institute had been torn down, the High School students were housed in what used to be known as the Victoria Felder Manual Training Building. Judson Felder, one of Navasota's early citizens, had given some land to the school trustees to be sold and used for building purposes. The school was named in honor of Mr. Felder's wife.

The building was in a bad state of disrepair and entirely inadequate for a High School or Grammar School. A campaign got under way, launched first by the Kiwanis Club, to build a new High School.

Under the regime of John D. Rogers, mayor; a bond election for $130,000 was called by the city commission to build the school. The election was held May 4, 1929 and carried with a majority of votes. A tract of land had been purchased from the Brosig Estate, including three acres donated by the Brosig heirs; Mrs. U. Watts Brown, J. Wallace Brosig, Mrs. Ewing Norwood (Deceased), Miss Nettie Brosig, amounting in all to twenty acres. The land was ideally located, just a few blocks from the city and facing on Washington Avenue.

The magnificent new High School, modern to the last detail, was finished and opened to the public for inspection on the evening of July 28, 1930. The exercises were presided over by Superintendent L. G. Andrews. The title to the new school and parkway was handed to the President of the school board - Dr. W. W. Greenwood, by Mayor Rogers. Joe Brule was City Engineer and City Manager at that time, and to him goes much credit for supervising roadways, driveways, sidewalks, concrete curbs and gutters, draining structures, and landscaping. All of this tremendous task was done by Mr. Brule, free of charge.

Said to be the best in this part of the state are two tennis courts which were planned under the direction of Joe Brule, and which are situated behind the Swimming Pool. The High School has a fine gymnasium beside a Vocational Agriculture Building.

Navasota's new Elementary School, built on the same properties as the High School, faces Brosig Avenue. It was ready for occupancy in September, 1949. Like the High School, it is as modern as tomorrow. O. Dan Carter, who is now Superintendent of Navasota Schools, was the Superintendent then. Clyde Lee Prestwood was Principal, J. H. McDonald was President of the School Board, and the late Ralph W. Barry was Mayor.

Today the Navasota Independent School District enrolls 1,921 students in grades from one to twelve. The district embraces an area of 343 square miles. It employs 119 persons including teachers, administrators, custodians, lunchroom workers, and bus drivers. Its budget is $420,974.00.

Management of the Navasota Public Schools is invested in a School Board composed of J. D. Webber, President; L. P. Dyer, Secretary; Dr. H. L. Stewart, Vice President; R. P. Griffith, C. W. Lucas, R. S. Weaver, and W. A. Waddell.

Superintendent O. Dan Carter's immediate staff includes Mrs. Wilma Fuqua-Secretary; Mrs. Frankie Maynard-Bookkeeper; Miss Lois Hodges (Mrs. Ray Ward), Clerk; Loyal V. Norman-Supervisor of Instruction.

Principals are: Clyde Lee Prestwood, High School; Paul Manning, Elementary School; J. H. Payne, Carver High School (colored), Wilburn C. Carr, Carver Elementary School; Arnett Henry, A.M.T. School.

Within recent years the size of the school district has been increased from 38 to 343 square miles. The annual budget has been increased from $150,000 to $420,974. There has been a tax reduction from $1.50 to $1.25.

There are nineteen buses serving the school district, rather than two which the district formerly had. These buses haul 929 boys and girls throughout the district from their homes to the schools and back.

The modern school plant planned and executed during Mr. Carter's Administration includes a modern Administration; Auditorium building seating 1,000 students. It is equipped with modern lighting, heating and air conditioning units.

In addition to this, is a new 24 room Elementary School building; and addition to the gymnasium, a school bus garage, a new Negro High School; a wing to the new Elementary School building together with the installation of systematic plans for care, cleaning, and maintenance of the school buildings.

The swimming pool has been acquired for school purposes together with the adjacent park, and it is also available for the use of the general public during the summer months.

Eight men have served the district as superintendents: S. H. Flake, 1886-1899; B. H. Brown, 1899-1903; W. B. Bizzell, 1903-1910; J. Thomas Davis, 1910-1919; I. G. Andrews, 1919-1934; F. H. Harrison, 1934-1935; J. T. Ferguson, 1935-1949; O. Dan Carter, 1949- is still serving.

George Washington Carver School

In the early days of Emancipation, about 1865, Rev. J. J. Reinhart of Virginia established the first Navasota Colored School. Classes were held down town in the Gibbs store and in the Methodist church across the street from the present school site. Each pupil paid $1.00 monthly tuition and $1.25 for a Speller.

Under the leadership of Rev. Reinhart and Rev. L. L. Gamble, Prof. James Washington from Chicago became the first principal. This was in 1870. Mr. Ira Malcolm Camp had given the site upon which the George Washington Carver School stands today, to the colored people to be used for school purposes. In about 1875, a little one room school house was built on the land.

Prof. Robert J. Evans succeeded Prof. Washington as principal in 1878 and served in that capacity until he died in 1884. His wife, Mrs. Mary Evans, served until 1886.

The school has grown by leaps and bounds. The one-room structure, where reading, writing and spelling were taught, was destroyed by fire in 1910. It was replaced by a modern brick building which now houses the first four grades of the Elementary School. The George Washington Carver High School was built in 1942. The campus has six buildings on it at present, where courses in Natural Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Music - vocal and instrumental; Spanish, typing, home and family life education; vocational agriculture; physical education for girls and boys are taught. There is a farm shop, besides specialized courses in elementary education.

In 1947, the enrollment was about 300. In 1954 it is around 1,000. The increased enrollment began in 1949 when the Freeman School on highway 90 became a part of the Navasota Independent School District. In 1950 the Colored School in the Eureka District was consolidated; in 1951 students from Courtney, Templeman Hill, Lynn Grove, Post Oak, Chatam, Stoneham, Erwin-Piedmont and Plantersville, became part of the consolidated district, and in 1953 the A.M.T. school was consolidated.

There are 33 teachers, 4 vocational teachers, 1 visiting teacher, 1 Elementary principal, 1 High School principal, and 1 Supervisor.

Two Former School Superintendents

Dr. W. B. Bizzell (William Bennett) was born October 14, 1876, in Independence, Texas. He was graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1898; he received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1900. In 1911, he received a Master of Laws degree from Illinois College of Law and the degree of Doctor of Civil Law in 1912. He received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1913, and a Doctor of Law from Baylor University in 1919. Columbia University granted him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1921.

After serving as superintendent of the Navasota Schools in 1910, Dr. Bizzell became President of the College of Industrial Arts at Denton. He held this position until 1914 at which time he accepted the presidency of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, Texas, and served in that capacity until 1925. On July 1, 1925, he became president of the University of Oklahoma. At the end of his work in 1941, he was made president emeritus and chairman of the Department of Sociology. During his academic career, he was a member of various societies, associations and clubs.

His wife was the former Carrie Wray Sangster of Navasota. They were married here on August 16, 1900. One son, William Sangster Bizzell and one daughter, Elaine Bizzell, were born of this union. Dr. Bizzell died at his home in Norman, Oklahoma on May 13, 1944. He was buried in Rose Hill Mausoleum in Oklahoma City.

The library of the University of Oklahoma, dedicated December 14, 1949, will be known to future generations as The William Bennett Bizzell Memorial Library. The library has 300,000 volumes.

A statue of Dr. Bizzell, which stands immediately across the street from the library, was designed and sculped by Joseph Richard Taylor. It was unveiled December 14, 1949.

J. Thomas Davis was one of Navasota's best loved public school Superintendents. On leaving Navasota in 1919, he became President of the John Tarleton Agricultural College, later known as the Tarleton State College. He remained administrator of that institution until 1945, when complying to rules as to age, he became Dean Emeritus and Professor of History, which title he bore until his death on May 12, 1950; just ten days before his seventieth birthday.

Besides his educational interests, Mr. Davis was always active in civic and religious affairs, as well as men's clubs.

Many honors were conferred upon him by local, state, southern, and American educational groups. He was president of the Mid-Texas Teachers' Association; president of the Texas Association of Junior Colleges; President of the Association, Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and President of the American Association of Junior Colleges.

He was president and life director of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce; honorary member of the Boy Scouts of America; and Lone Star Farmer of Future Farmers of America. The Future Teachers of America, a Stephenville High School organization, bears his name.

Mrs. Davis is not without distinction. She has long been active in her church and her clubs. She has served on both district and state Boards for the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs; being a life member of the First District. She writes a column for the Stephenville Daily Empire which she entitles "Here and There."

The Davises were the parents of three children with an A.B. degree from A & M or T.C.U. College. All three children are married, and they had their first two years of College work at John Tarleton. Wilson, the eldest, received his A.B. Degree from A & M College. He is in business in San Antonio.

William received his A.B. from Texas A & M, and his Masters and P.H. from Texas University. He has taught at Texas Technological College for twelve years. He is head of the Government Department.

Dorothy, now Mrs. M. J. Green of Eden, is a talented musician, having received her B.A. degree at Texas University. She continued her study of voice, violin, and piano at the Chicago Musical College.

Brule Field

Adjacent to the Navasota Elementary School Campus is Brule Field and Stadium. It is a natural bowl surrounded by tiers of seats made from native stone. It was planned and executed by Joe Brule, city engineer and manager, from whom it was named. The athletic field was dedicated Friday night, September 21, 1934.

A. J. Youens, the mayor, introduced the late H. L. Lewis, Jr., president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who was master of Ceremonies.

After the ceremonies were over, the first football game to be staged in the field, was played. The Navasota Rattlers defeated the Calvert Yellowjackets, 27-7. Bill Bournis was Captain of the Rattlers.

1. Atchison School and Victoria Felder School
2. Ground-breaking for new Elementary School
3. Brule stadium

Chapter VII

THE COMING OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

It was in 1888 that Navasota contracted with the firm of Gorman and Reineke for the installation of a water system. On completion the City gave to Colonel E. L. Bridges a twenty-five year franchise to operate the plant. Shortly after Colonel Bridges interested Joe Holly, father of Joe Holly formerly of Navasota but now of Galveston, to become his partner to install an electric light plant.

The plant was built by Joe Bedner and John Talley and completed in 1891.

Schumacher Oil Works, the first customer, subscribed for a total of seventy-five lights to be installed in the mill. When they were turned on the negro employees yelled fire and fled from the building.

The first plant was operated by Joe Bednar and there was only night service. Mr. Bednar's hours were from 4 PM to 8 AM. He earned the munificent wage of $50. 00 a month and during the entire period for which he worked for Bridges and Holly, and that was five years and three months, he had one week's vacation.

The first generator used at the plant was a Westinghouse. Its capacity was for 750 lights. While testing this generator, Robert Schumacher, son of the late Henry Schumacher and brother to Baylor who is still affiliated with the mill, lost most of the fingers on one hand.

In 1898 a second generator was added to the equipment. It was purchased from the Galveston Light & Power Company. The primary voltage at this time was 1100 volts, the secondary voltage was 50 volts.

In those days devices known as converters were used instead of transformers to reduce the voltage at points of service.

Originally there were no meters. Each consumer was charged a rate of sixty cents for each light.

Of course, electric appliances, irons, percolators, toasters, none of the small appliances, to say nothing of washing machines, refrigerators, deep freezers or the like were even heard of.

At first most people had a drop light from the middle of the ceiling which was turned off at the light socket. Often there was a chain which controlled the brilliancy of the light.

J. M. Showalter, father of Miss Hallie Showalter of Navasota, succeeded Mr. Bednar in charge of the light plant. He was followed first by J. L. Scoggins and later by William Bissett.

R. A. Horlock and Company

In 1907, Bridges and Holly sold their interests in the light plant to R. A. Horlock and Company.

Mr. Horlock was one of Navasota's most worthwhile citizens. He was an Alabamian by birth though his father was an Englishman and his mother was of German Extraction. His father was a ship chandler in Galveston in 1860. His store was one of the very few which kept open for business during the war between the states. In 1865, the elder Mr. Horlock went back to England. He returned to Galveston in 1868 where he died. Robert A. was 12 years old when his family moved to Galveston. Though just a lad young Horlock boarded a blockade runner in Galveston Harbor and presented himself to the commander for duty. He was enlisted as Captain's boy and remained in service in this capacity until Lee's surrender.

After the war Mr. Horlock went to England but returned to Galveston where he was engaged as buyer in a hide and wool business until 1870. In 1871, he moved to Navasota.

He has since that time been a conspicuous figure in the development of the city.

He was the senior partner in Horlock and Holly, ginners of cotton and manufacturers of ice; senior member of the firm Horlock and Schumacher, jewelers; manager of the Schumacher Oil Company; besides having large land interests in the Brazos bottom.

He was twice married. Of his first marriage were born Robert A. Horlock, Jr., prominent Houston businessman, philanthropist and financier, and the late Mrs. Emma Harris, widow of the late well loved Dr. E. A. Harris.

Children of his second marriage are Mrs. Agnes Jackson, Mrs. Gladys Ewing, Mrs. Effie Lyles, Mrs. Iscah Rout, the late Mrs. Ida Miller, the late Arthor Horlock and Edwin Horlock. He was an Episcopalian, member of the K. of P. uniformed Knights and the Knights of Honor. He was a Colonel on the staff of General Hopkins in the R. K. of P.

When Mr. Horlock took over the electric light plant, he agreed to replace all old and obsolete

equipment with modern new machinery and that all such not taken over by the R. A. Horlock Company was to be kept by Bridges and Holly.

The R. A. Horlock Company installed completely new machinery for manufacturing ice, all electrically operated, and also began furnishing light and power from their ice plant.

In 1913, the 25 year franchise granted to the R. A. Horlock Company was about to expire. The fire underwriters notified the City Council that unless they installed modern machinery and sufficient fire hydrants besides increasing the size of the water mains from the then 4 to 6 inches to 6 to 8 inches they would have to increase the insurance rate in Navasota.

The city decided it was not financially able to make these changes but proposed to the R. A. Horlock Company who were already operating the light and ice plant, that if they would make the required changes in modernization as outlined by the Dallas firm, that the city would give to the R. A. Horlock Company the entire waterworks equipment owned by them together with a twenty-five year franchise. The proposal was accepted and that company continued to operate these properties until 1917, when they sold their interests to the Intermountain Light and Railway Company.

Just before this sale was made, residential meters had been installed with a charge of twenty cents per kilowatt hour. Now the average rate is 3½ cents per kilowatt hour. If these rates were effective now, an average bill for consumers would be $35.00 a month rather than an average of $6.50 which we now have.

If figured on 1925 rates, the residential consumer's bill would average $30.00 a month, on 1926 rates, about $20.00; on 1936 rates about $7.50 monthly and on 1954 rates $6.40.

After several years, the Intermountain Light and Railway Company sold their interests in the ice, light and water plants to Western Public Service Company, with headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Gulf States Utilities Company

Western Public Service Company sold its properties to the Gulf States Utilities Company in 1928.

Prior to the time the high lines were built into Navasota, the town was served by a steam plant with two reciprocating engines, driving two 150 kilowatt generators. These gave a capacity of 300 kilowatts while both were in operation. Now the capacity in Navasota is approximately 40,000 kilowatts.

In 1929, the 69 kv line from Beaumont to Navasota was completed giving Navasota ample capacity for any future growth. However as the territory in and around Navasota has developed, an additional 33,000 volt line was built and tied in with feeds from Huntsville and Madisonville. This was done in 1930. It gave a two way feed into Navasota, assuring the town of still better service.

Since then, large transmission substations have been built in Navasota and connected with a new 138,000 volt line which operates in parallel to the old 69,000 volt line from Dayton to Navasota. This gives us a capacity in the Navasota area of about 40,000 kilowatts, which can be increased as required.

Due to the increased use of electricity and the demand for continuous service, a number of devices have been installed to facilitate speed and availability. These include radio communications and supervisory controls which allow shifting of loads to various lines electronically.

Even when trouble occurs in one section of the line, the advancement in the relaying lines makes it possible to give continuous service while the trouble section is taken automatically out of service until it can be repaired.

Navasota's electric section in 1891 had one employee. It now has nine employees and has developed into division headquarters where are located substation, labor, line, meter and garage crews as well as sales and engineering departments and other division personnel, which includes eighty-one additional employees with a total yearly payroll of $410,000.00.

The Division Office of the Gulf State Utility Company is located at Navasota. It should be pointed out with clarity that this organization has a local office in addition to its district office situated here. Location of the district office of this quasi-public organization has been a source of great pride to Navasotans.

The Navasota Telephone Company

The Navasota Telephone Company was founded in 1895 by Ward B. Templeman. The original switch board, which is still in existence, is a maze of wires and batteries. It was installed by Joe Bednar,

who at the time of his retirement was a member of the telephone family but was then working for the electric light company.

There were five original stockholders: Dr. A. H. Ketchum, W. B. Templeman, R. A. Horlock, J. M. Shaw and Dr. Tom Foster. They each owned $1000.00 worth of stock.

There was an agreement among the stockholders that should any one of them wish to get rid of their stock or if any one should die, that the remaining stockholders would have the privilege of buying the stock. In the end, Ward Templeman became the sole owner and at his death, the property was inherited by his widow, Mrs. Annie Foster Templeman.

The first telephone office was over the First National Bank. There were thirty-five original subscribers. Miss Jessie Camp, later Mrs. Louis Chinski, was the first switchboard operator.

Several years ago Mrs. Templeman sold her interests in the company to her niece Mrs. James F. Martin and Mr. Martin.

In 1940, the office was moved to its modern new home on Farquhar street. The local subscribers list has grown from 35 to approximately 1700. James F. Martin is president of the company, George M. Franks, vice president, Ben Curd, treasurer and Mrs. Juanita Wilson, secretary.

The switchover to the dial system was made in 1952. Also, in 1952, the company bought the Three Star Telephone Company, The Anderson, Richards and Shiro stations. In all these stations, they have installed dial phones. In 1953, the company acquired the Washington station and are now putting in dial phones for the Washington subscribers.

The Navasota Telephone Company now has a subscribers list, including the entire lot of stations, of 2500 telephones. It is incorporated for $125,000.00 all paid in stock.

Although privately owned, the Navasota Telephone Company has connections with the Bell Telephone Company whereby it extends its long distance service to any point on the globe where there is telephone service.

Mrs. L. L. Chinski - nee Miss Jesse Camp

First Telephone Operator in Navasota, Texas

Chapter VIII

THE CHURCHES OF NAVASOTA

1939867

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

by

Mary Grace Spann Swanson

Land for a Catholic Church was given by the H&TC Railroad. It was deeded to the Right Reverend Bishop Buisson of Galveston for the purpose of building a Catholic Church in Navasota. Navasota is situated in the Galveston diocese.

Capt. P. A. Smith was awarded the contract for the building and he engaged John Wiley as chief architect. The building was erected at a cost of $4000. There was some misunderstanding between Mr. Smith and the building committee concerning the windows, pews, and altar, so it remained in the possession of Capt. Smith until an agreement could be effected between the two parties. The first church was located on Farquhar Street near the location of the City Hall. It was burned and the members met for services at the home of Mr. Joseph Holly. These meetings were very intermittent due to transportation difficulties.

In 1896, land was purchased from Mr. S.B. Rucker out of the I.M. Camp survey for $375.00, on which to build a church. It was called St. Patrick's Church, and was served by the pastor of the Plantersville Parish. Rev. Joseph J. Klien was the first pastor to serve Navasota. Services were held once a month. The trustees then were Joseph Holly, C.P. Spann, and R.A. Patout.

Rev. J.J. Gallagher lived in Navasota for 18 months and Rev. George Apel served Plantersville and Navasota from 1912-1924.

Rev. Robert Schirtz, who was made Monsignor in 1954, served Plantersville and Navasota from 1924-1930.

Rev. M.J. O'Regan, stationed at Hempstead, was pastor for Hempstead, Navasota, and the surrounding area. Rev. A.J. Nicholson repaired the church and enlarged the sanctuary.

Rev. Vincent, besides fulfilling his obligation to his church during the war, served as chaplain at the POW camp at Huntsville.

In 1946, Bishop C.E. Byrne granted the privilege of having two nuns from the Incarnate Word Academy in Houston to come each Sunday to teach Christian Doctrine classes to the children. This custom still prevails.

By this time the congregation had outgrown the little church and late in December, an interested group met with the sanction of Father Vincent, to discuss plans for building a new and larger church. A building committee consisting of Lou Hertenberger, chairman; R.A. Patout, Jr., treasurer; Lee Denina, Gerald Fahey, Mike Jesiak, and Joe Batts, were elected. Cards were issued to each family, urging members to pledge for a three year period. The vision was becoming a reality.

In 1947, Rev. T.A. Ryan was appointed pastor of the Hempstead-Navasota churches. Through him and friends of the Catholic church, Congressmen were urged to assist in purchasing an Army Chapel, located at Lorede. Friends and members of the church generously donated labor and transportation, and the chapel was dismantled, brought here and rebuilt.

Mr. Norton of Bryan was consulting Architect, and Herbert Youens was the contractor. Father Ryan received special dispensation by Bishop Byrne to live here during the period of construction. In 1949 the cornerstone was laid by Co-Adjutor, W.J. Nold for Bishop Byrne.

The old church was given to the Mexican congregation, who changed the name to "Our Lady of Guadalupe." They are served by the Basilian Mission out of Rosenberg. The parishioners have built a house for the priest, who comes on week-ends. At present time a recreation hall is being built.

Due to ill health, Father Ryan was transferred. For nearly a year, Father Ruth has commuted from Houston. He is a member of the Basilian order who conduct the University of St. Thomas and St. Thomas High School in Houston.

The Altar Society has long been an active group for the women of the church. They have the care of the altar, the linens and the vestments. The officers this year are Mr. Joe Batts, president; Mrs.

Robert Lucas, vice president; Mrs. Alfred Perry, secretary; and Mrs. G.W. Oliver, treasurer.

In 1953 the women of St. Patrick's became affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women. The chief objectives of this group is the propagation of the faith through study groups and lay-women's retreats and catechism. Mrs. J. W. Adkins is President; Mrs. Lou Hertenberger is President; Mrs. J. W. Adkins, Vice President; Mrs. Lawrence White, Secretary; and Mrs. R. W. Yarborough, Treasurer.

St. Patrick now has almost 100 families in its congregation today.

One of its oldest and most interesting records is told by the Spann family. Three Spann brothers left the Spann family. They came from South Carolina to Galveston. They became close friends of Bishop O'Din, who was made first Bishop of Texas in 1847. Prior to that, in 1842, the brother had moved to Washington-on-the-Brazos, where Bishop O'Din spent several summers visiting in the M.C. Spann home. M.C. Spann was the grandfather of Miss Claire Spann and Mrs. Fres Greenwood.

The Church Of Christ

The Church of Christ in Navasota started with nine members. They were Mr. and Mrs. G.B. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. O.H. McGee, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Varnade, and Mrs. Varnade's mother, Mrs. Salter; Mrs. E.A. Otte, and Mrs. Sue Saunders. They held their first meeting in the Masonic Building in 1935.

In 1937, through the generosity of a Mrs. Woodward of Houston, who gave the membership a large cash donation for building purposes and a loan from a loan association; a lovely little brick church was erected on Church and Manly Streets.

C.B. Martin who was at the time Bible and Mathematics teacher at A&M College, supervised the building and served as the first pastor.

During that first few years, members from Bryan and College Station conducted weekly services until such a time as the membership were able to engage its own minister. In the beginning, weekly contributions amounted to about $15.00 a week. Now the church has 75 members and no debts, having retired loan seven years ago. Clarence Olsen is the Minister in charge at the present time.

The Episcopal Church
by
Mrs. Watts Brown

The local Episcopal Church was organized in 1866 and was then called the "Holy Comforter Church." The H&TC Railroad Company gave a block of land, No. 58, north of Cedar Creek, across from the Schumaker Oil Mill to this organization for a Church site. Seth Craig's home now stands on this land.

The Episcopal Church Register gives the following names as members in 1866: Mrs. J.S. Boxley, Miss Anna Pointer, Mr. and Mrs. H.N. Jones, Miss Helen Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Prince Freeman, Mary Cox Freeman, Dr. and Mrs. H.N. Kerr. There may have been others. Previous to this time, Bishop Gregg had made an exploratory visit. That was in 1850. He later came to the Diocese to assume duties. Formerly, there had been an active Episcopal Church in Washington-on-the-Brazos; the building of cedar was said to have been one of the most handsome in the Diocese.

After the Civil War, the membership of that church diminished as the population of Washington-on-the-Brazos declined. Acting on the advice of Bishop Gregg, this church building was moved to Navasota in 1869 and was placed on the lot given by the Railroad. J.L. Barrow was employed to move and rebuild the church edifice. This building was consecrated in 1870 by Bishop Gregg, and it received the name of St. Paul. Clergymen assisting in the consecration were The Rev. Parker, The Rev. J.W. Phillips, and The Rev. O.W. Spaulding. The first Vestry was formed or composed of Dr. Kerr, Captain Toms, Captain Reid, and Mr. George Ehinger. Some of the early members of this church were Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Bridges who came in 1870; Mrs. and Mr. R.A. Horlock, Major H.H.Boone, wife and children; Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, F.W. Brosig and wife; Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong; Dr. and Mrs. Kerr; Captain DeMaret and family, and others.

Mr. Horlock was made lay reader, and for a time much interest was shown. When interest lagged, he discontinued this capacity. When Bishop Gregg visited the Parish, he reported services well attended. Ministers from Bryan and Hempstead came and held services once or twice a month. Many children and adults were baptized and some marriages and funerals were recorded. With little pastoral supervision, the Church and Church School remained active with Mr. Horlock as Superintendent, and Mr. Bridges as

assistant for the children.

At the church there long has been a Christmas Tree at that season; a religious book at Easter; and a picnic in the spring of the year. The visit of the Bishop was looked forward to like a visit from Santa Claus.

About this time, Ernest Lord lately from England, located in Navasota and was a most enthusiastic Churchman. Charlie Rowland and family also from England were additions then. Church membership was gradually increased. The first resident minister was Mr. Chris Denroche, a Canadian who came in 1889, and remained over a year. He was a good all-around man, aroused much interest, and was much liked. Before he departed in 1891, the lots for a new church had been bought, plans adopted, and a building committee consisting of R. A. Horlock, E. L. Bridges, and F. W. Brosig, were given order to go ahead. They did not delay. E. Lord was contractor. The Bishop was much pleased when he came late in 1891.

By Easter 1892, the first service was held in the new building. In regard to the consecration of this building, some uncertainty exists. Bishop Gregg was in failing health and Bishop Kingsolving had been made Co-adjutor. It is possible that he conducted the consecration service in 1896. Prior to this the Rev. Jno. R. Dunn was called early in 1892. He was a faithful man for four and one half years. Membership of the church realized, too late, that he was a powerful individual when he accepted a call to Calvert in 1896. Others came for short periods and were well-liked. The Rev. Henry Brown of Houston came for week-ends for a number of years. He was an elderly man and was much loved and highly regarded. He was followed by the Rev. S. Moylan Bird, was also a part time rector for many years. He served most efficiently. Again there was an off and on period. Names of clergymen could be given who served for a short period. They generally were liked and did well but were called to larger parishes.

The Rev. A.H. Beardsley came to the Parish seven years ago. Under his leadership the Parish has progressed and prospered.

The Trinity Lutheran Church
by
The Rev. L.F. Westerman, Pastor

The first Lutheran service was held in Navasota in 1932. It was conducted by Rev. L. A. Trinklein of White Hall in the Grammar School Auditorium.

In January of 1933, a constitution was adopted by the charter members of the Trinity Lutheran under the oak trees which are on the boundary of the Church's property at 1119 Felder Street. This is the location of the parsonage.

Charter members of the church were A.E. Gruetzner, Herman Hemann, Ernest Foerster, Gus Schaefer, Gus Boehm, Louis Hilley, and Otto Druckhammer. Only one charter member is here today; Ernest Foerster; the others have moved away or passed on.

In May of 1933, the first church was built on the church property on East Washington Avenue. This church was completed in August of that year. The building was replaced with the present structure in 1950. Ground breaking took place July 30. The new church was completed and dedicated to the glory of God on April 29, 1951. Alex Mewis was chairman of the building committee, assisted by Edwin Mickin, Edwin Druckhammer, and Mrs. Oscar Wehring.

The congregation's first called minister was Rev. C. W. Luekens who served from 1934-1940. In 1941, Rev. C. A. Heckmann was called and served until 1948. He served at the same time as chaplain in the U.S. Army. In 1949, the present pastor, L.F. Westerman, was called.

The congregation has grown from 30 cummunicant members to 218 communicants. The total membership is 304.

The Jewish Faith
by
Miss Bettina Jacobs

A number of members of the Jewish Faith have lived in Navasota. The first of such families to settle in Navasota were I.Y. Chinski, B. Goodman, H.A. Jacobs, Myr Levy, Simon Levy, Sol Levy, I. Bock, H. Maymon, Charles Miller, George Coldberg, Mr. Hyman, and I. Cohen.

Members of the Jewish Faith never erected a house of worship at Navasota on account of the fact that there were so few of them. Each attended worship services at Houston, according to tradition. Moreover, these families were faithful in worship in their respective homes; particularly on the Day of Atonement and the New Year Date. H.A. Jacobs presided over these special home services.

By 1872 additional Jewish families joined this group in establishing homes here. Many of the younger members of Jewish families have moved from Navasota.

It should be pointed out that the fundamental principles embodied in Jewish lore constituted an important ingredient in Navasota culture.

The First Methodist Church
by
Miss Frances Leake

According to an account of the First Methodist Church, published in the Navasota Daily Examiner December 19, 1934 by the Rev. D.L. Landrun, its pastor at that time; the origin of the Navasota Methodist Church is somewhat vague. The best early record of the organization is the Minute Book of the First Quarterly Conference for the year 1887.

There is evidence, however, that has led to the belief that the Navasota Methodist Church grew out of a Methodist Church at Washington-on-the-Brazos. In a record book of the early years of the Church, there appears the following entry: Jno. M. Brown, received into the church in 1825 by ritual, under the pastorate of Orcenith Fisher, and with residence at Washington, Texas. There also appears under the list of pastors, the names of several pastors who do not seem to have been pastors of the Navasota Church. Among this list is the name of Rev. Lovisk Pierce. There are many entries in the register of members who united with the church from 1825 to 1896, at which time the last entry was made, with residence at Washington. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Navasota Methodist Church grew out of a Methodist Church at Washington. The evidence seems to indicate that the first church was organized in 1857 by the Rev. James A. Duncan.

The "Navasota Weekly Tablet" published on July 20, 1876, told of the following interesting sketch prepared by Dr. A.R. Kilpatrick on July 4, 1876: "From 1859 to 1867 there was no separate house of public worship in town, but all denominations held their meetings in the old school house. In 1866 Mr. Miriam M. Glass and E.D. Johnson, assisted by I.M. Freeman, M.M. Felder, and others, united their efforts in getting subscriptions to build the Methodist Church.

Everybody wanted a better house than the old school house to worship in, and it was not long before a sum large enough to warrant them to begin, was secured, and the lumber obtained and the Central (H&TC) Railroad Company deeded two lots of ground to M.M. Felder, J.M. Duke, C.S. Taliaferro, Ira M. Freeman, and A.R. Kilpatrick, who composed the Board of Trustees for the Church.

Among the preachers and pastors who have had charge of the Navasota Methodist Church at different times since its organization in 1857 have been the following:

1. T.W. Blake before the Civil War and part time during that war.
2. A. McKinney - during the Civil War.
3. G.W. Fleming - 1 month during 1867.
4. Robert Alexander - carried on a protracted meeting in the fall of 1869 for some weeks - was assisted by several ministers and many people joined both the Methodist and Baptist Churches.
5. James M. Wesson, Pastor, 1868.
6. Marshall G. Jenkins - A short time during 1870.
7. Nathan N. Allen - Remaining time of 1870.
8. Horace S. Thrall - 1871.
9. J.W. Bennett - 1872-73.
10. James M. Wesson - 1874.
11. A.T. Curtis - 1875.
12. P.C. Archer - 1876.
13. Rev. Dimmitt and Price - 1877-80.
14. J.C. Mickle - 1881-82. Ch. Brooks, P.E.
15. P.P. Norwood - 1883.
16. C.C. Armstrong and J.B. Sears - 1883-86.
17. J.R. Morris - 1887-88.
18. J.R. Morris 1889.
19. J.M. McMahon - 1890-91.
20. R.C. McKeith - 1892-94.
21. George E. Clothier - 1895.
22. G.H. Collins - 1896-97.
23. S.F. Chambers - 1898.
24. C.E. Hooper - 1889-1900.

25. J.M. Adams - 1901.
26. W.F. Davis - 1902-05.
27. C.E. Urquhart - 1906.
28. C.R. Lamar and Mr. Frick - 1907.
29. Claude Simpson - 1908-09.
30. Mr. Lindsey - 1910.
31. W.D. White - 1911-13.
32. J.L. Massey - 1914-17
33. D.H. Hotchkiss - 1918-19.
34. H.M. Timmons - 1920-23.
35. O.W. Hooper - 1924.
36. W.H. Vance - 1925-26.
37. J.W. Goodwin - 1927-28.
38. J.C. Handy - 1929-
39. D.L. Landrum - 1931-34.
40. W.G. Fletcher - 1935-36.
41. W.C. Pope - 1937-38.
42. Frank Dent - 1939-40.
43. E.J. Harris - 1941.
44. Wayne McCleskey - 1942-46.
45. C.F. York - 1947-48.
46. Emmett Barrow - 1949-51.
47. Leroy R. Condrey - 1952-54 (Serving).

The Rev. D.L. Landrum, former pastor of the church, stated that the original Methodist Church building in Navasota cost about $4,000, and that it was the only church in town for several years, and was used by all denominations. It was known as Alexander Chapel in honor of Rev. Robert Alexander. The members of the Presbyterian Church contributed some to the payment of this house and its membership enjoyed the joint use of it on alternate Sundays from its completion until such time as that congregation erected a building of its own. This same authority says that the Methodist Church at Washington was dissolved in 1883, and that it then had a balance of $60.00 which was used to build the first parsonage at Navasota.

The first rock church building by this congregation, the second building it had was erected in 1890. The cornerstone of this building is to be found on the northeast corner of the present building.

When the Methodist Church was dissolved at Washington-on-the-Brazos in the early 1880's the building there was razed, material sold and funds derived, amounting to approximately $8,000.00. In 1883 this fund was used for the erection of the First Methodist Parsonage in Navasota. J.W. Leake was the builder of this structure. The original building is a part of the present one.

The beautiful windows, floor covering, baptismal font, communion set, and other magnificient gifts for the Church were from members, and one half the cost of the Pilcker Pipe Organs was from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation through the Templeman family. The memorial windows to Dr. T.C. Foster and Mrs. S.J. Mullins were moved from the old rock church to the new building.

On May 16, 1938, a memorial service was held at the Methodist Church commemorating the 100th anniversary of Dr. Martin Ruter's death. Rev. C.L. Spencer, a member and trustee of Dr. Ruter's Church in Old Washington, had his remains brought from there to Oakland Cemetery in Navasota on June 14, 1899. Addresses were made at this memorial service by Bishop S.R. Hay, Rev. R.W. Adams, and Judge S.W. Dean. The conclusion of the service was at the graves of Dr. Ruter and Rev. J.M. Wesson.

In 1897 a gift of $500.00 was willed the church by Mrs. S.J. Mullins. A memorial window was placed in her memory, and one to Dr. T.C. Foster by his wife, Mrs. Annie Blackshear Foster. In 1939, Mrs. Ophelia Greer Stewart and Miss Tennie Greer, sisters and members of a pioneer family willed their home to the interest of the Methodist Church. After their passing, the settled estate brought the church about $3,000.00. The death of Miss Virginia Walthall in 1943 revealed a willed gift of $1,970.00 to this church for use at the Methodist Home in Waco. Miss Walthall was an ardent member of the church and a revered and worthy teacher in the Navasota School System. In 1946 Mrs. Robert McKay had the sanctuary completely redecorated in memory of her husband, the late Mr. Robert McKay. The same year a Pulpit Bible was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Settle. Later a public address system was installed - a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Seth Crait in memory of their parents. During the pastorate of the Rev. Condrey, the Senior M.Y.F. donated a brass altar set, collection plates, and a communion set - a Baptist mother contributing generously to the latter. In 1952 Mrs. Nettie Foster Baker presented the church with a lighted brass cross in memory of her parents. At the passing of T.B. Terrell, a steward for many years, his will contained a gift of $2,000 to the church. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Smith gave the church an Eclipse Power Mower recently.

In 1942 the pastor, the Rev. Wayne McClusky, and the Rev. F.C. Hensley, a local minister, built and installed a Communion rail and choir loft front. In 1943 both American and Christian flags were

presented to the church by Mrs. Etta Weaver, and family, in memory of her son, Sgt. Wm. Weaver, who died while in service of his nation. The same year a service roll was given by Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Crapp in memory of their son, John Murry Crapp, who lost his life in training for duty with the U.S. Air Force.

A principal event or milestone during the pastorate of the Rev. Leroy R. Condrey was the response of Connie Winborn to a call to the Ministry in the Methodist Church.

Present trustees of the Methodist Church are George Franks, G.D. Hoke, R.M. Love, Dr. H.L. Stewart, Fletcher Yarborough, and H.R. Turner.

Through the years, the following people at one time or another have served as organists: Mrs. M.B. Foster, J.M. Quinn, Miss Edna Brigance, and Mrs. Myrtle Stoneham.

The Pentecostal Church

In January of 1952, the Rev. Charles R. Free, formerly of Silsbee, received approval from the Home Missionary Board of the Pentecostal Church, District of Texas, to come to Navasota for the purpose of building a church for members of that faith.

A tent revival was conducted in May, 1952. The meeting was successful and plans were made to buy property and build a church.

In September, 1952, a site was purchased at 612 Blackshear St. Actual construction on a church was begun, March 18, 1953. The construction work was contributed without charge, by members and friends of the church.

There were no members to the Pentecostal faith prior to the tent meeting. However, in August of 1953, the church organized with 32 members, and by the close of the year, had increased to 40 members.

Elected church officers were: Pastor, Rev. C.R. Free; Secretary and Treasurer, John Shelfer; Sunday School Secretary, Mrs. Ethel Rice; and Ladies Pentecostal Auxiliary Secretary, Mrs. Louis Loftin.

The First Presbyterian Church
by
Mrs. Blake Youens

The First Presbyterian Church of Navasota, Texas was organized by order of the Presbytery of Brazos in the month of May, 1867. The Rev. J.R. Hutchinson had been appointed for that purpose. There were only 40 members of the organization at that time, and most of them had come by letter from Galveston, Texana, and Washington-on-the-Brazos. Original records of the church were destroyed by fire on September 7, 1869. In consequence thereof, the exact date of the establishment and organization of the church has not been determined.

On May 15, 1869, the H&TC Railroad deeded two lots for a church site to the Presbyterian Church with J.T. NcNair, Daniel D. Atchinson, and Henry D. Patrick, being named as trustees of the property for the church.

The church was without a building from the time of organization until 1876 during which time the congregation used the old Methodist building, whose construction it had helped in some way. There had been a thriving Presbyterian Church in the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos, but that community had started to decline after coming by the railroad to Navasota, only 8 miles away. People at the former place started moving to Navasota, and it was decided to move the Presbyterian Church to Navasota. The Lott family, descendants of whom live at Navasota, instigated the moving of the church to Navasota.

A sum of money was raised for financing the removal of the Church from Washington-on-the-Brazos to Navasota. The building had to be dismantled, moved, and re-constructed in Navasota. A contract was given to Captain B.A. Strange for this project, and he immediately began work on it in the spring of 1876.

By summer of that year, the new house of worship was completed, and the congregation worshipped in it the first time on August 6, 1876. This was the first stone church in the city of Navasota. At the time of its erection, the congregation was small and the church income was limited. Therefore, the construction of this new edifice was quite cumbersome to members of the congregation. Considerable sacrifice on the part of each was required to pay for the new building. Each member of the congregation was quite proud of the new building. In fact the entire city was proud of the handsome edifice with its tall spire reaching heavenward 75 feet. The total cost of the building was $3,750.00.

As the town grew, membership in the Presbyterian Church increased correspondingly, and the church building became too small. The building was torn down in 1893, and a new one was constructed in 1893-94 at the cost of $16,000.00. Rocks taken from the original building were used in the foundation of this new building. The concrete floor of the present church building is said to contain many rocks from the original building, also. The building committee was composed of Henry Schumacher, Jesse Youens, James M. Shaw, and John Ackerman. The contract was awarded to Earnest Lord and Will Youens for construction of the new building. The stone work was done by Alexander McFarland.

The first pipe organ used in the church was bought from the St. David's Episcopal Church of Austin, Texas. It was installed in 1913. This organ continued in use there until 1942, when the present one was installed and dedicated. It was dedicated in remembrance of Elder and Mrs. Tom M. Owen, who in a will, left funds to be used toward the purchase of a new organ.

An organ committee composed of Henry Wesson, A.J. Youens, G.W. Lott, and Mesdames R.E. Powell, and Mrs. J.Percy Terrell, was appointed by a joint meeting of Church Elders and Deacons on November 6, 1938. Henry S. Wesson, Chairman of the Committee, wrote the specifications for the organ, and it was built by the Hall Organ Company of West Haven, Connecticut at the approximate cost of $9,000.00. It was dedicated with a noteworthy organ recital presented by Dr. E. William Doty, head of the music department of the University of Texas. Ministers who have served this church are J.R. Hutchinson, J.N. Cochran, M.A. McFeathers. F.H. Hensley, O.B. Caldwell, W.S. Red, J.G. Tanner, J.N. McFarlane, W.M. Lewis, F.S. Henderson, S.C. Guthrie, Ed Norton, H.N. Cunningham, J. Beaty Smith, W.R. Hall, Jr., and Edwin Walthall; who resigned April 1, 1954 to accept a pastorate at Morrilton, Arkansas.

The Navasota Baptist Church
by
Mrs. Louis S. Pierce

In 1936, the Rev. Eugene Boulet, pastor of Anderson Baptist church, Anderson, Texas, published a history of Baptist churches in Grimes County in two mimeographed volumes. Volume I constituted a fertile source for much of the information found under the above caption.

The Navasota Baptist Church was organized in a school-house, situated exactly where the public school buildings were located in 1936, according to Boulet. This was the year 1860. The church today has no records pertaining to the organization of that time, but the minutes of Union Association to which the Navasota Baptist Church belonged furnished some data. It has been determined that the following were charter members: Ira M. Camp, and possibly J.J. Felder, and C.V. Vaughn.

Of early history of the Navasota Baptist Church, Boulet said: "In its first report in the fall of 1860, the church had only twelve members, but by 1864, it had gone up to 52. In 69 it had dropped back to 44, but in '76 it had gone up again to 169 members. In '82 the membership was down to 73, and in '88 it was down even to 25; but the very next year it had come up again to 142. Through the rest of its history, its high and low points in membership were as follows: in 1894, 243; in 1903, 302; in 1909, 234; in 1918, 424; in 1925, 588 (the largest); in 1931, 430; and in 1935, 508.

"Since the church does not have its own records, it is difficult to tell about some things, but it seems to have had only part-time preaching for the first twenty-five or more years. At first it had only fourth-time preaching, and we find her pastors preaching at other near-by places at the same time. Even the first year of the pastorate of A.E. Bate, 1887-88, the minutes of Union Association show him to be pastor of both the Navasota and the Brenham churches at the same time; so it was probably during the second year of his pastorate that a preacher was first engaged for all his time. Since this time the church has maintained preaching every Sunday in each month, and has gone forward in a great way.

"The first really great revival meeting in the town was held in 1876, and was conducted by W.E. Penn. In this meeting which lasted six weeks, there were two hundred professions of faith reported, and the entire community was greatly stirred. Some other notable revival meetings which have been held in the community directly under the supervision of the church or in co-operation with the churches of other denominations were: one by Sid Williams in 1893; by G.S. Tumlin, 1893; by W.P. Feiff, 1910; by J.N. McConnell, 1902; by Sid Williams again, 1913; by J.B. Leavell, 1920; and by L.E. Finney, 1921. Many other great meetings have been held by various pastors of the church.

"The church had no building from the start, but along with other denominations, worshipped in the school-house. From 1859 to 1867, all the services of all the denominations in the town were held in this same school-house. The Methodist people built in 1867, and for a while the Baptists at times used their house. In 1872 the Baptists erected a frame building on the lot still being used by the church, and this cost $2,500.00. Mr. Rowlett was the building superintendent. The lot was donated to the church by the H&TC Railroad Co. The first trustees of the property were J.R. Kennard, Davis Owen, W.C. Roe, H.K. White, and William H. Baines. The building was dedicated in May, 1872. R.H. Taliaferro of Austin, Texas preached the sermon.

"The present building in which the congregation still worships was erected in 1889 under the direction of a committee composed of Ira M. Camp, J.J. Felder, J.W. Rhodes, and Pastor Baten. The plan for the building was drawn by Mrs. Baten, the wife of the pastor. This building was made of rock taken from Mrs. John Owen's quarry, and cost $7,186.00. Matters connected with this work were not completed so that the financial report could be made to the Association in 1891.

"The Harmony Church contributed $25.00 toward this building, and David White gave two very large vases to be placed one on either side of the rostrum.

"For a long time the church had no pastor's home, but in the closing years of the '90's, a house already built was purchased for this purpose. This house stood right where the present pastorium stands, but the records are not full enough to give us even a safe guess as to the amount the church paid for this home. It was a one-story residence, and was made of wood. In 1915 this home was torn down and the present two-story pastorium was built. This building is also of wood, and cost around $3,000.00.

"In 1925 under the pastorate of W.N. Purcell, the church remodeled its house of worship, the old rock building, erected in 1889, by adding to the two front corners and by erecting an annex for an educational department. This new part is also of rock. There seems to be no definite record as to the cost of this work, and some estimates run as high as $25,000.00; but W.N. Purcell, under whose pastorate the work was done, says that the cost was around $20,000.00; and this is probably not far from the correct amount. The church now has a splendid plant with 38 rooms, and the auditorium is large enough to seat four hundred people.

"A Sunday School was established not long after the organization of the church, and J.R. Kennard was elected the first superintendent. He served until his death in 1884. W.W. Stacy served as secretary of this school for fifty-five years. The size of the school will be shown by the enrollment for the following indicative years; in 1899, 179; 1901, 165; 1905, 138; 1908, 128; 1914, 208; 1926, 345; 1929, 499; and in 1925, 521.

"Others who served as superintendents longer than the ordinary length of time are: W.B. Bizzell, eight years; E.D. Blackshear, seven years; and L.N. Yeager, 23 years. In the minutes of the Association there are no reports for Sunday School work in this church until a late date, and it has been difficult to get the names of all who have been mentioned above as superintendents. We have found the following names who have served in this office: W.M. Forrester, J.O. Hill, S.H. Flake, C.S. Cone, H.L. Lewis, Ralph Beard, J.E. Warren, and H.E. Fuqua, L.N. Yeager, the present superintendent, is still continuing in this work.

"The First Woman's Missionary Society seems to have been organized in 1887 under the pastorate of A.E. Baten, and with Mrs. Rhoda Muldrew as the first president. Some of the other early members were: Miss Fannie Anderson, Inez Redford, Lititia McDaniel, Emmie Terrell, Ann Bowen, F.L. Walker, Annie Ackerman, Emma Thomas, and others whose names I have not been able to secure. We have not been able to trace this department of the work of the church through all the intervening years, but the church still has a vigorous society working both locally and in connection with the varied enterprises of the denomination some of which reach unto the ends of the earth. Presidents of this organization, the Women's Missionary Society, have been Mrs. Rhoda Muldrew, Mrs. E.G. Owen, Mrs. Kate McCune, Mrs. E.M. Perry - 2 terms, Mrs. Joe N. Baylor, Mrs. J. Thomas Davis, Mrs. May T. Blackshear, Mrs. John Crutchfield, Mrs. Ira Cooch, Mrs. William Purvis, Mrs. Royal Lott, Mrs. L.N. Yeager - 2 terms, Mrs. J. Walter Smith, Mrs. W.W. Greenwood, Mrs. Lewis S. Pierce, Mrs. Ruby Hendrix, Mrs. J. Wallace Brosig, Mrs. W.C. Todd, Mrs. A.D. Pratt, Mrs. Charles Rowland.

"The first effort at organized work for the Young People in this church was made in 1888 when Mrs. A.E. Baten, the wife of the pastor, organized the Kate Taylor Society, named for the first wife of Mis-

sionary Z.C. Taylor, and which was the forerunner of the present B.T.U. organization of 238 members. (1954.)

"The church has been very unfortunate with her records, they having been destroyed by fire on two different occasions; so the records which it now has date back only about 40 years from the present, and even these are not complete. As in the case of other churches, much of the information given in this story has had to be gleaned from the statistics of the denomination. The first clerk was W.J. Terrell. S.J. Walker was one of the good clerks of this body, and he served in this capacity for twenty years. The minutes of the Association do not give a complete record of the clerks of the church, but in addition to the two already mentioned, here is a fairly good list of them gathered from all available sources: J.C. Teague, R.M. Roulet, G.W. Graves, J.W. Terrell, J.H. Teague, J.J. Felder, Hamlet Felder, F.A. Dotson, W.J. Redford, W.M. Forrester, Wm. G. Ford, E.D. Blackshear, C.S. Cone, G.W. Carr, W.C. Mobley, W.F. Terrell, H.E. Fuqua, L.S. Pierce, A.H. Showalter, Mrs. E.M. Perry, E.M. Perry, Mrs. E.M. Perry, L.H. McAden, Bertrand Hansen, Herbert Thigpen, George Binford, and S.A. Jones.

"The deacons have been faithful and good men. One of the early ones was Ira M. Camp. He was a very liberal giver, and always contributed to all the work of the church. He was a great friend and supporter of the Buckner Orphan's Home. Among his other helpful acts, he at one time, advanced the money with which to purchase an organ for the church, and the instrument was secured; but there was so much sentiment in the church against the use of an organ in the services that it was used only during Sunday School, and was locked up during the preaching hour.

"Another very fine deacon of this church who deserves special mention is Steve J. Walker. Bro. Walker was indeed one of the noblest and best of men. He served this church in this office for thirty years, and was such a "stay and support" as is seldom found. He was a great friend of preachers, and not only his own pastor, but all the preachers in the country who had access to him, counseled with him frequently. One incident of his loyalty to his pastor shows his great character. The church had called a new pastor, and he was coming in on the afternoon train. One of the other deacons hooked his horses to his surrey and drove by Bro. Walker's place of business asking him to go with him to the train to meet the new preacher.

Bro. Walker told him that he himself was busy and could not get off; but, the other deacon insisted, and told him that he ought to be ashamed not to go to the train to meet the new preacher. After some arguing back and forth, Bro. Walker said, "Well, I can't go today; you go on and meet him, and I'll go to the train with him when he leaves." When the preacher did leave to go to another field of service, the other deacon was not friendly with him, but Bro. Walker was still in hearty co-operation with his pastor and went with him to the train.

"The church has had a number of splendid deacons, many of whom we should like to say more about, but space forbids. Besides the two already mentioned here is a list of the others in so far as we have been able to secure their names: J.J. Felder, S.J. Walker, James Rhodes, P.G. Hatchett, W.H. Meyerlambers, W.B. Bizzell, H.L. Lewis, E.M. Perry, C.S. Cone, C.A. Stone, Rufus Hardy, J. Thomas Davis, L.N. Yeager, J.H. McDonald, Albert Showalter, Oscar Coe, H.E. Fuqua, D.M. Mayfiedl, R.J. Terrell, M. Hansen, J.M. McGinty, and O.Y. McCurry.

The present list of deacons include: J.H. McDonald, Chairman; L.N. Yeager, Bertrand Hansen, A. C. Pratt, S.A. Jones, G.S. Pierce, H.E. Terrell, H.O. Henderson, George T. Binford, Herbert Thigpen, Frank Henley, Joe Fultz, S.D. Coleman, George W. Leonard, J.O. Liveley, J. Walter Smith, J.K. Inglehart, J. Luther Mason.

"As to pastors the church has had a goodly array of men, and among them many who were faithful and true as well as well trained. Only one of them, J.H. Stribling, was ever pastor of the church twice, and only two ever served longer than the usual three to five years. They were H.R. Carroll, seven years; and W.N. Purcell, ten years. In the absence of complete records it has been quite difficult to work out accurate dates of the various pastorates, but the following seems to be the best that can be done under the circumstances. List of Pastors and their dates of service:

J.M. Perry - 1860-63
J.H. Stribling - 1864-65
Martin V. Smith - 1866-67
J.H. Stribling - 1868-69
J.T. Zealy - 1869-73
R. Andrews, Jr. - 1874-75
Rufus Figh - 1875-76
S.B. McJunkin - 1876-77
J.F. Duncan - 1893-97

Isaac Sellers - 1894-99
D.Y. Bagby - 1899-02
H.C. Smith - 1902-05
J.F. Moody - 1905-09
Bartow Broome - 1908-09
G.W. Pickett - 1878-81
B.B. Williams - 1882-
R.A. Massey - 1883-84
George Cook - 1885-87
Rev. Wesley - 1887
A.E. Baten - 1887-89
J.T. Stanton - 1889-90
C.C. Green - 1891-92
H.R. Carroll - 1910-17
W.F. Frazier - 1917-19
T.A. Payne - 1919-24
W.N. Purcell - 1924-34
P.C. McGahey - 1934-36
W.A. Bowen - 1938-42
R.E. Milan - 1942-44
Howard Shoemake - 1944-47
W.R. Miller - 1947-54
Tom J. Drewett - 1954 - Now Serving

The church has never had but one person in the capacity of Minister of Music and Education. Clyde W. Prather is that person. He has been with the church several months and currently serves in that capacity. The church has the following choirs under his direction: Church choir, youth choir, concord choir, laurel choir, cherub choir, and angel choir. Recently this church won high honors with sextets, trios, and duets at the Fort Worth Music Festival.

The church auditorium was remodeled in 1938 during the pastorate of W.A. Bowen, and a pipe organ was installed and the art glass baptistry scene was installed. It was a gift from Mrs. F.J. Anderson.

During the recent pastorate of W.R. Miller, two missions were established. The first one was established at Allen Farm approximately 15 miles from Navasota. It was started during the month of May, 1951. At the first meeting 25 persons were present. The First Baptist Church Mission was established in Navasota. The following account of the establishment of this Mission was written by J.H. McDonald, Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

The Baptist Mission Church--An Example of Cooperation

When you are driving down Highway 6 and glance over one block and see the attractive spire pointing heavenward atop the Baptist Mission Church, you see not only a place of worship, but also a monument to community cooperation.

After Rev. and Mrs. Geo. N. Cook chose this as an ideal site, it was found that the city owned the block. When the City Commission, composed of men of various faiths heard of the plan, they sold the property to the First Baptist Church for a nominal amount and agreed to pave in front of it. As it was black dirt, sand was needed to top it and Mr. J.M. Showalter donated the sand for the purpose. A Methodist gave $100.00 to provide the sidewalks and curb and gutter and Mr. Clyde Webb placed these at cost. The State Highway Department raised the arches of the building with a giant dragline that they happened to have here doing bridge work. The Baptist Brotherhood inserted several thousand screws in putting the church pews together. Kiefer Inglehart, J.C. Stone, E.L. Mitchell, and others installed the wiring without charge and P.V. Warbington installed the plumbing at cost, and Mr. W. Blackloupe and his men put on a free coat of paint. This church building was originally a chapel at Camp Swift and the big job of tearing it down and rebuilding it was done by Reed Greenwood who was assisted by E. Williamson, Tom Keisler, and others. Back of it all was the First Baptist Church which spent about $12,000.00 to get the job done. Do you not agree that it was a community effort, and a very fine one too?

Now let's go back to May 26, 1946. On that date we find a Mission Committee report signed by Mrs. Monroe Chaney and J.H. McDonald, following a survey by them assisted by Barbara Ann McDonald, indicating that 79 people wanted a Mission established. Soon the opportunity to buy an Army Chapel at Camp Swift for $1,000.00 was presented and the First Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. W.R. Miller, voted to apply for it and their application was approved. Prior to this, Rev. Geo. N. Cook had been called as Mission pastor and the meetings were held in the American Legion Hall on Tenth St. with J. Walter Smith as Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Louis Pierce, Mrs. W.C. Todd and others faithfully worked for the success of the Mission.

After the new building had been occupied for about a year, Rev. Cook suffered a stroke which forced him to retire from the pastorate. At this time, Rev. Miller reported the return to America of two missionaries from Brazil, Rev. and Mrs. E.H. Crouch. Rev. Crouch was called as the new pastor by the First Baptist Church and under his pastorate, ably assisted by his wife, the Mission Church has had a rapid growth with a special appeal to the young people. Able workers include: Mrs. W.C. Todd, Mrs. W.W. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Keifer Inglehart, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Minsky, Miss Hallie Showalter, Mr. and

Mrs. A.E. Inglehart, Mrs. E. Williamson, Mrs. Albert Cotharn, Mrs. Bill Goble, Mrs. J.O. McWhorter, Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Lively, and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Weaver.

In 1953 more space was needed, so a vacant school house was purchased from the Navasota School District; moved on to the site and attractively remodeled for dual purpose use, for Sunday School department and also as a kitchen and dining room, and fellowship service center.

As you enter the sanctuary, you now see a beautiful baptistry painting, a memorial to Lt. Marion Pierce, who gave his life in the service of his country. He gave his life that we might live and it is an inspiration to the service in the church and to the Master, who likewise gave his life that we might live eternally.

The Mexican Baptist Church

The Mexican Baptist Church was organized by the church while the Rev. T.A. Payne was pastor. The first pastor of this new church was Rev. Steve Torres. Mrs. E.M. Perry was deeply interested in this new church. In 1934 Mrs. W.C. Todd felt the call to Mission work, and responded with much assistance to the Mexican Baptist Church.

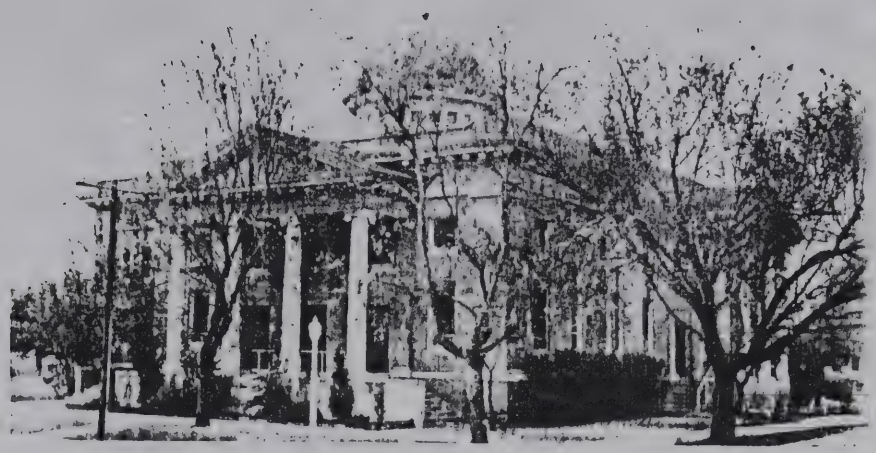
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Navasota, Texas

EARLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

BAPTIST CHURCH at Anderson, Texas
Over 100 years old

EARLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH OF CHRIST

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chapter IX

SOME LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Hannibal Boone Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy

The Hannibal Boone Chapter, U. D. C. was organized October 25, 1901 at the home of Captain W. E. Barry, with Miss Mamie Barry hostess. The name was chosen in honor of Major Hannibal Boone, who had lost an arm while in service in the Confederate army and who became one of Navasota's most distinguished lawyers.

The original charter is preserved by the organization and bears these names: Mrs. W. R. Howell, Mrs. S. J. Walker, Mrs. G. L. Conoly, Mrs. Anna L. Stewart, Mrs. C. C. Camp, Jr., Mrs. M. A. Fisher, Mrs. Ward Templeman, Mrs. Gordon Boone, Mrs. J. R. Howell, Mrs. Laura F. Blackshear, Mrs. J. W. Brosig, Mrs. J. F. Martin, Mrs. F. W. Crutchfield, Mrs. D. W. Ward, Mrs. W. S. Craig, Mrs. John Owen, Mrs. E. C. Easley, Mrs. P. B. Bookman, Mrs. S. J. Creagor, Mrs. J. J. Creagor, Mrs. Ira M. Camp, Mrs. Fannie Anderson, Mrs. C. C. Camp, Sr., Mrs. J. G. Tanner, Mrs. Laura Thompson, Mrs. J. M. Shaw, Miss Carrie M. Wilson, Miss Lucy Barry, Miss Maggie E. Wilson, Miss Mamie Barry, Miss Meachum, Miss Kate Norwood, Miss Minnie Schumacher, Miss Jessie Owen, Miss Ella Schumacher, Miss Ira Blackshear, Miss Nina Stewart, Miss Irma V. Chinski, Miss Bessie Barry, Miss Evelyn Boone, Miss Florida Norwood, Miss Gertrude Forester, Miss Helen Lott.

Miss Mamie Barry was the first president. This Chapter of the U. D. C. has contributed much to the lore and has worked for the preservation of our history for posterity.

Under the presidency of Mrs. Kate Menger, a marker was placed over the grave of Mrs. Miriam Beck (Forrest) Luxton, mother of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Mrs. Luxton was a guest at the famous old Camp Inn at the time of her death and was buried just across the road in the old Camp family burial ground.

This organization took an active part in the unveiling of the La Salle Monument. It entertained many confederate veterans from time to time and furnished transportation to those veterans who were unable to provide their own to and from their beloved conventions. It held a memorable Hood's brigade reunion here with Miss Kate Daffin of Ennis the sponsor.

The veterans and their widows living in the Confederate Home in Austin were always a Christmas project for the chapter. Besides veterans in the Grimes county were participants in their Yuletide cheer. Crosses of honor were presented to all veterans and until the Legionnaires assumed the privilege, the graves of our beloved veterans were decorated with flags and flowers.

Mrs. C. P. Spann deserves special mention as one of this chapter's outstanding presidents. Some of the ensuing presidents were Mrs. W. S. Craig, Mrs. E. M. Perry, Mrs. M. Menger, Mrs. J. Wallace Brosig, Mrs. M. E. Parker, Mrs. L. R. Rowland, Mrs. H. T. Hall and Mrs. Earl Harris, Sr. Mrs. W. H. Barry is the current president.

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Women's Auxiliary were established in 1845. Julian Dickinson, now National Adjutant, with headquarters in Kansas City was the first commander and Mrs. Gussie Harris was president of the Women's Auxiliary. Judge W. E. Barron and Mrs. Barron have been very active in the work of these organizations since the beginning. The present commander is Earl Harris, Jr., and the president of the Women's Auxiliary is Mrs. Charles Courtney. This is a very active organization and takes part in all projects.

Robert Raines Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

The Daughters of the American Revolution are direct descendants of a soldier or patriot who served in the American Revolution. It ever holds before its members their obligation and duty to love their country, support its constitution, obey its laws, respect its flag, to defend it against all enemies and to put forth every effort to promote and strengthen its way of life.

Prior to 1913 there were two members of this organization in Navasota, Mrs. J. T. Swanson and Mrs. W. B. Templeman. Mrs. Templeman got in touch with the proper authorities and by August 16, 1913,

she had organized the Robert Raines Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution of Navasota. The name chosen for the chapter honored a revolutionary ancestor of the organizing regent, Mrs. Templeman. Sixteen women signed the formal draft of organization. They were Mrs. E. D. Blackshear, Miss Ira Blackshear, Mrs. J. W. Brosig, Mrs. J. Cross Baker, Mrs. Collie C. Camp, Mrs. Mary Carr, Mrs. A. H. Ketchum, Mrs. J. C. McRae, Mrs. Kate Menger, Mrs. Shields Norwood, Mrs. Burns Petigo, Miss Alice Rodes, Miss Ada Rodes, Mrs. E. B. Stinson, Mrs. Andrew Sangster, Mrs. J. T. Swanson and Mrs. Ward Templeman.

Today the membership includes 42 members. These women have served as regents: Mesdames W. B. Templeman, W. F. Gibbs, Tom Owen, E. B. Stinson, Miss Louise Craig, E. D. Blackshear, J. B. Leigh, W. S. Baker, R. E. Powell, J. T. Simmons, J. W. Terry, J. T. Swanson, A. H. Beardsley and the present regent, Mrs. J. T. Swanson.

The past years have been those of accomplishment, nationally and internationally. Mrs. Ward Templeman served as State Librarian, Miss Louise Craig was State Registrar and later State Treasurer, Mrs. W. S. Baker was National Vice Chairman of Radio, and State Chairman of Radio and Publicity.

While serving on the George Washington Monument Committee Mrs. Baker recommended to the state conference that the Texas D. A. R. have a publicity bulletin, to be published quarterly and to carry information relative to the work of the state and national chairmen. In 1932 the first D. A. R. Bulletin was published by the Daily Examiner of Navasota under the direction of Mrs. W. S. Baker, State Chairman of Publicity. She was assisted by Miss Alise Sangster (Mrs. George Spears) and Mrs. J. W. Terry. The Bulletin proved so helpful that today every state in the union has a state D. A. R. Bulletin.

On March 6, 1930, the Robert Raines Chapter, D. A. R. was hostess to all Texas Daughters of the American Revolution chapter members for the unveiling ceremonies of the monument erected in Navasota, Texas, honoring Robert Cavelier Sieur de la Salle, who was shot down near Navasota by his treacherous companions and was buried where the Brazos and Navasota Rivers meet. Later impressive ceremonies were held in Houston and Mrs. Ward Templeman and Mrs. W. S. Baker were among seven prominent women in the state on the La Salle Monument committee who were awarded honorary degrees by the French Consul in Houston naming them officers of the French academy by virtue of the degrees of the French government.

April 17, of 1930, members of the Robert Raines Chapter, D. A. R. elected Mrs. Ward Templeman lifetime Honorary Regent as a token of their high regard.

The Navasota Volunteer Fire Department

Navasota's Volunteer Fire Department has played a heroic part in the growth of Navasota. Unfortunately early records were either lost or not kept for the first thing we actually know about it is that it had a bank balance as early as 1877 at the Shaw-Horst Bank.

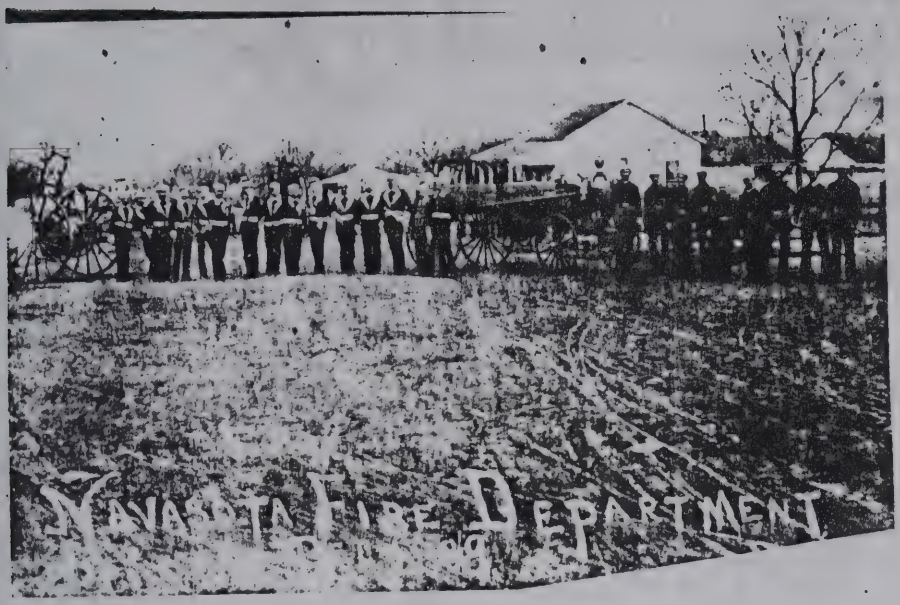
In the early days the fire department contributed a lot to the town's entertainment. There was a yearly fire department picnic culminated with a fireman's ball. In the forenoon there was always a giant parade led by the Marshal of the day and followed by the Hook and Ladder truck, the trucks of hose companies No. 1, 2 and 3. Each truck was gaily decorated with bunting and paper flowers and carried a sponsor together with her maids and often small girls to make it more decorative.

The parade was followed by a picnic either in Brown's pasture or Dr. Ketchum's. Everybody brought a basket dinner and the women of the town vied with each other to see who could bring the highest cakes and the whitest, the most luscious pies and the tastiest fried chicken or baked ham. There was always a speaker of the day, often a political figure of prominence, sometimes even the Governor. The grand climax was the ball in the evening at the Smith opera house. Records show that Miss Lillie McNair was sponsor in 1891, Miss Annie Foster had the honor in 1892. Miss Ada Schumacher in 1893. Later sponsors were Miss Frances Leake, Miss Jennie Lowrie, Miss Eva Driscoll, Miss Agnes Horlock, Miss Irma Chinski and many more.

In 1889, Mr. W. N. Norwood was fire chief. He was the father of the late Ewing Norwood and Miss Katie Norwood. He was chief until 1902. Evidence was revealed among the old records that Mr. Norwood had served as president of the State Fire Association.

Other men to hold office in the fire department were J. H. Lee, J. B. Backloupe, J. H. Freeman, J. M. Shaw, F. J. Kernoble, E. Holman, Thomas Foley, W. H. Redford and C. E. Matchett.

The organization rarely had much money. The members were fined $2. 00 for disobeying orders at drill and 25 cents for using profanity. Occasonally some grateful citizen who had suffered a fire showed



Navasota Fire Department
1889

Entry in Fire Dept. Parade

Business Section, Navasota, Texas.

Fire Department Parade
About 1890

Parade in Business Section
1919

their appreciation by sending the company a small check.

The uniforms were navy blue shirts with white lettering and white canvas caps and spanner sockets to match belts.

Two huge poles at the railroad crossing on Washington Avenue supported the fire bell. A rope hung down so any person might reach it to sound a fire alarm. If there was simply a tap, that meant fire drill.

The city council were approached for a "wildcat whistle" in 1910. In 1911 one was installed.

In 1910 Mayor Charles Kirk suggested that the fire department have a membership of twenty-five. Ward Templeman was chief at this time, W. H. Redford assistant chief and Ross Steele secretary.

Dr. O. S. Johnson is the only honorary member to be mentioned in the old records although Latham Boone, Sr., L. G. Wood, Joe N. Baylor and Jim McDonald are all honorary members.

In 1900 J. W. Schumacher was foreman of the Hook and Ladder Company. R. A. Sangster was foreman of Hose Company No. 1, Morris Brooks of Hose Company No. 2 and Hood Boone of Hose Company No. 3. Joe Bednar was elected electrician.

The first fire truck was purchased in 1914. Ed Lee Stacey was the driver. The second fire truck was bought in 1923. Its first driver was C. C. Short.

In 1903 a room was prepared in the city hall to house the fire trucks. It is still in use for that purpose. The trucks stand ready, with their engines toward the doors, to be off on a moment's notice.

Ward Templeman had a long and noteworthy record as fire chief as did Agent E. P. Ayers who served for fifteen years.

In 1942 a Ford truck was purchased which is still in use along with an American La France 750 gallon Invader which was bought in 1951. Early in 1954 a 525 gallon water tank mounted on a Ford Chassis using a 150 gallon a minute pump was acquired.

Truck drivers in 1942 were J. H. Lee, day driver, and D. C. Bolton, night driver. Tim Burns, who stays at the fire station, is the only full time paid member of the Navasota Volunteer Fire Department.

Present officers are: Fire Chief, Hannibal Wilson; Assistant Chief, Latham Boone, Jr.; Secretary and Instructor, Paul Scrivener; Treasurer, Garvin Wright; Foreman of Hose Company, Fred Kaechele; Assistant Foreman of Hose Company, Mace Meekins; Foreman of Hook and Ladder Company, Lloyd Poole; Assistant Hook and Ladder Foreman, Grover Mitchell; Driver, Tim Burns.

Members of the department are Alfred Scherbel, Bob Mohr, Victor Stolz, Fred Voelter, P. V. Worbington, M. R. McAlpine, Malcolm Meekins, Ed Hemann, Pete San Angelo, Rex Garrett, Albert Miller, Dewitt (Ox) Crawford, Raburn Harrington, James McDonald and O. L. Steele, Jr.

Masons

Due to fires that have occurred at various times over the years the records of Navasota Lodge No. 299 A. F. & A. M. are incomplete but due to the diligence of some faithful few, many interesting items on the early history of the lodge have been preserved.

In 1866 a petition signed by 28 members of the masonic order was presented to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas at their annual communication at Houston, Texas, asking that a dispensation be granted for the organization of a lodge at Navasota.

Navasota had at that time a population of about 1500 people. It was set forth in the petition that there were about forty or fifty ancient, free and accepted Masons residing in or near Navasota while the nearest lodge was in Washington-on-the-Brazos. This was lodge number 18, a flourishing lodge in a flourishing city.

The petition set forth the inaccessibility of the Washington lodge. At that time there was no bridge over the river and the only way to cross the river was by way of ferry. The meetings of the lodge were held at night and at the late hour the lodge meetings were over made it too late to get back to Navasota as the ferryman declined to operate his ferry after a given hour and the Masons from Navasota had to stay overnight.

The petition of the Navasota Masons was granted by the Grand Lodge and the first meeting of the Navasota lodge was held June 30, A. D. 1866, A. L. 5866. Worshipful Master James G. Heard of Washington Lodge No. 18 opened a Master's Lodge under dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge.

Navasota's Lodge No. 299 A. F. & A. M. was chartered June 14, 1867. The members held their early meetings in the frame house known as the Derrick Smith building for about three years. Their next

meeting place was the public school building situated on Farquhar street where the Post Office is today. Their next move was to the Odd Fellows Hall where they remained until the building was burned in 1883. Following the fire the Masons moved to a rock building on Railroad street. They later purchased the building and it was known as the Masonic building for many years.

This property was sold in 1924 and the lodge was moved to the Holly building on Farquhar and Mc-Alpine streets, where it rented a hall until they could build the present Masonic Temple.

H. E. Fuqua held the distinction of being Worshipful Master when the site where the present building stands was purchased. He was Worshipful Master again when the building was completed and dedicated in addition to having served on the building committee.

In 1927, when J. G. Whitten was Worshipful Master, Johnnie Miller proprietor of a local theatre stated that if the Masons would build a temple, which they had been contemplating, that he would lease the lower floor for his theatre. The idea of building was received favorably by the lodge and Mr. Whitten named a committee of three to proceed with securing architectural estimates. The committee named consisted of R. E. Powell, J. B. Leigh and H. E. Fuqua. A favorable decision was made on their findings and a contract let.

The building committee were honored with the three principal offices in 1928: H. E. Fuqua, Worshipful Master; J. B. Leigh, Senior Warden and R. E. Powell, Junior Warden. Other officers that year were G. H. Elliott, Treasurer; J. N. Ratcliff, Secretary; W. L. White, Senior Deacon; D. L. Thomas, Junior Deacon; W. W. Lott, Senior Steward; E. H. Mercer, Junior Steward and J. W. Martin, Tiler.

The cornerstone for the Temple was laid October 25, 1929. The service was conducted by J. B. Leigh.

H. E. Fuqua, always a loyal and devoted Mason, was born at Fuqua's Prairie, May 13, 1881. He was a member of the Orphans Friend Lodge No. 17 at Anderson joining June 3, 1903. He became a member of the Navasota Lodge No. 299 A. F. & A. M. August 13, 1911. He was elected secretary June 13, 1932 and served until his death, May 17, 1953. He was made a life member September 8, 1947, and served twice as Worshipful Master, once 1915-1916, again 1928-1929. He was married to the former Miss Lola Franklow.

The I. O. O. F. Lodge

According to an account of early Navasota history, the Odd Fellows obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge at Galveston on August 11, 1868. The charter was granted to W. W. Wilkerson, A. G. Colberg, D. M. Smith, W. A. Kirk, John Randolph, J. Q. St Clair and H. D. Patrick. It was signed by James A. Haynie, Grand Master; Isaac C. Stafford, Right Worthy Deputy Grand Master; J. W. Bradford, Grand Secretary. The lodge is known as I. C. Stafford Lodge No. 98.

A more complete history of this organization was not on hand for publication at this time.

The Navasota Lions Club

The Navasota Lions Club was organized during the summer of 1948. The Lions Club of Bryan sponsored the organization of this club. There were thirty-three charter members of the organization. The original slate of officers consisted of L. P. Dyer, President; Ralph W. Barry, Vice President; Clyde Lee Prestwood, Secretary-Treasurer; and V. V. Bryant, Tail-Twister.

One of the early projects of the club was sponsorship of the recreational program for the city, including the softball league, swimming pool, and a hardball team.

The Lions Club have taken delight in serving the city and the community in many ways. This year it has presented citizenship certificates to each home room in the elementary school.

Present officers of the Lions Club are Otto Lohmeyer, President; G. W. Oliver, First Vice President; W. T. Wilcox, Second Vice President; The Rev. A. H. Beardsley, Secretary-Treasurer. The board of directors consists of L. P. Dyer, Elmore Gibbs, C. W. Lucas, and C. L. Lake.

Grimes County Chapter
The American National Red Cross

Ward Templeman was credited with having organized the Grimes County Chapter of the Red Cross. A charter for it was dated September 6, 1917.

At the request of the Grimes County Chapter Chairman Mrs. Laura Puryear, the Midwestern Branch Office of the Red Cross prepared a brief history of the chapter from its organization in 1917 until 1931. This document has been a source of some of the following information.

This history indicates that on June 7, 1917 the American Red Cross office in Washington D. C. received the following telegram from Navasota:

"Grimes County Chapter of the American Red Cross of Navasota organized the following Executive Committee: Mesdames John D. Rogers, John R. Crittenden, Misses Bettina Jacobs, Edith Salyer, H. L. Lewis, Ed F. Blackshear, R. A. Patout, R. L. Renick, Dr. W. W. Greenwood, Ward Templeman, and about one hundred fifty others with the following officers: Ward Templeman, Chairman; Mrs. John D. Rogers, Vice Chairman; Miss Edith Salyer, Secretary; R. E. Renick, Treasurer; and respectfully request that we be recognized as such with entire county of Grimes as territory. Kindly advise by wire our expense and forward all necessary papers and instructions. (Signed Ward Templeman). "

Following some correspondence formal organization of the chapter was completed, officers installed, and work got under way. The first chapter roster contained not only the above mentioned officers but also the following:

Chairman of Finance - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - E. H. Terrell
Chairman of Membership - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - C. C. Camp
Chairman of Extension - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - L. M. Hewit
Chairman of War Work - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Mrs. J. D. Rogers
Chairman of Home Service - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - J. N. Baylor
Chairman of Junior Red Cross - - - - - - - - - - - Mrs. J. T. Davis
Chairman Publicity - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Mrs. Louise Brown
Chairman of Nurse Service - - - - - - - - - - Miss Bettina Jacobs
Chairman of Military Relief - - - - - - - - - - - - - Ethel H. Shields

It was considered unique that the organization at that time included units as follows:

BRANCHES	AUXILIARIES	
Richard	Keith	Cross
Shiro	Mesa	Cline
Stoneham	Carlos	Singleton
Bedias	Todd	Roans Prairie
Plantersville	White Hall	Lynn Grove
Iola	Courtney	
Anderson	Polish	

The branch units were discontinued in time after the end of World War I.

Credit for much of the post World War I activity including Extended Home Service was given Miss Edith Salyer, who served as Executive Secretary during the war period. She resigned in May, 1921. Mrs. J. E. Lyles was elected Volunteer Chairman at that time and she assumed responsibility of converting the remaining wartime materials into garments for refugee children.

At the end of World War I the chapter had a very substantial balance of $4, 827. 80 remaining.

The Grimes County Chapter was one of the first to come forward with its full quota of $400. 00 for Japanese Relief in September, 1923.

Membership in the Red Cross exceeded 5, 620 during the first World War.

During the depression years of the 1930's the Grimes County Chapter of the American Red Cross ministered extensively to the needy and suffering throughout the county. H. N. Sanderlin and the Rev. Mr. Purcell, a Baptist Minister worked night and day helping the unfortunate.

Mrs. Watts Brown was appointed County Chapter Chairman at the end of Ward Templeman's tenure. She acted in this capacity for many years. The days of the depression were made lighter because of her untiring work and understanding of the situation. She reported that much credit should be given her corps of faithful workers who served faithfully.

Records testify that Mrs. Brown became County Chairman in 1923 and served until 1936. During that period a number of swimming institutes were held, trained nurses came and ministered to the needs of school children, homes in need, and others. Many children and adults were found to be in need of glasses, tonsillectomies, etc. School children were given immunizations, teeth were examined by dentists, and physicians gave physical examinations.

H. N. Sandall became County Chairman after Mrs. Brown in 1937. During his administration the Red Cross helped rehabilitate some people in the county following a cyclone. Negro people were helped and a Red Cross nurse visited their schools in the interest of improved health conditions. After Mr. Sandall, L. M. Welch succeeded to the office of County Chairman. His work included that of holding the county organization intact during the lean years. Much service was rendered ex-servicemen during their difficulties and annual campaigns for funds were conducted. Mrs. Mary S. Terrell became County Chairman in 1939, and she served until 1948 when she was succeeded by Mrs. Nelleen Camp Martin. Mrs. Terrell handled many problems during World War II during which time it became necessary to open an office in Navasota to care for the many problems of service men and their families. It was reported that both the telephone company personnel and employees of Western Union were most cordial in helping the Red Cross carry through on problems of servicemen.

Many people in Grimes County have rendered service to the Red Cross. Mrs. O. K. Puryear is the present County Chairman, having assumed this responsibility in 1952 at the death of Mrs. Nelleen Camp Martin.

Editors' Note:

The above list of local organizations is incomplete due to the premature death of the author, Miss Maurine Chinski. It has been pointed out by personnel on the editorial board that the Kiwanis Club, the oldest civic club of its kind in Navasota, has been omitted and that a history of the Chamber of Commerce, sponsoring organization of this publication has not been included. The pressure of insufficient time precluded completion of this work.

Clippings

Clipping: March 22 1898-- War with Spain is inevitable . . " . . . The struggle will probably be very short. Cuba will be freed, the United States will get whatever indemnity she may demand and that will end the matter. . . . " The prospects of a war with Spain seem to be a case of "linger longer linger" and, "oh how tired we are of the lingering". . .

By order of the Captain all members of the J. M. Shaw Rifles are requested to attend an inspection drill of the company Thursday night, Wear full uniforms and white gloves, and all guns must be returned to the armory cleaned.

"Miss Ella Coxx advises the Examiner to announce, that owing to the intense war excitement she has decided to postpone the play billed for Thursday night until the excitement subsides. And that should any of them return from the war she would like to see them in attendance. . .

April 26 1898. . . The most conspicious movement among the organizations of a volunteer company from the J. M. Shaw Military Company. . . . . After the body was called to order Captain Gordon Boone addressed the boys in a cool straight manner telling them of the demands. . . . . counting the responsibilities, etc., stating that there was nothing to be said or done that would work any one up to the point of doing something they would afterwards be sorry for. . . . . Eighteen members of the Shaw Rifles enlisted.

Gone for Recruits: Members of the volunteers are today out scouring the lands for recruits, so they can bring their enlistment up to the requisite 100 men -- according to instructions received by Captain Boone from Adjutant Gen. Mabry:

Corporal Hammond Norwood left for Courtney; Dr. D. L. Peepels and W. B. Wesson to Millican; Lieutenant Ahrenbeck and Sergeant Kirk for Hempstead to obtain signatures of recruits for the Shaw Rifles. . . .

Navasota, Grimes Co. Texas May 5, 1898: "Off to War Shaw Rifles Gone to Austin Encampment May 3 1898. . . Tuesday was a sad and glorious day for Navasota. Our boys, our soldier boys left us to join the army in defense of the flag we honor. . . . . When the train pulled out a hearty cheer went up from the crowd and "Remember the Maine" came from the boys in a shout. Following is the list of names from the company:

Gordon Boone; T.P. Buffington; N.B.M. Tucker; L.M. Thompson; W.L. Taliaferro; J.W. Williams; T.L. Williams; B. Wilson; E.F. Woodward; J.L. Young; J.D. Adkinson; J.W. Barnett; D.C. Bebee; E.L. Bybee; Chas. Ahrenbeck; S.J. Creagor; A. Tombs; G. Thomas; M.W. Uzzell; Jack Wyatt; Tom Womack; Jas. H. Wooten; J.G. White; J.F. Young; J.R. Artee; Hood Boone; S.L. Burch; W.L. Black; W.A. Berongus; Chas. Conway; G.L. Chandler; W.A. Berongus; C.L. Chandler; S. Epheran; W.S. Easley; A.E. Elliott; S. Gamble; J.R. McFerrin; H. Norwood; Len Ogg; J.F. Pace; C.D. Rivers; W.H. Pressler; W.O. Steele; A.O. Smith.

Company Officers
Spanish-American War

The following is a list of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers as they were sworn in yesterday, May 1898, the latter were appointed by Captain Boone:

Gordon Boone	Captain
Chas. Ahrenbeck	First Lieutenant
Thos. P. Buffington	Second Lieutenant
Chas. J. Kirk	First Sergeant
Weyman Taliaferro	Quartermaster Sergeant
Hood Boone	Second Sergeant
Donald Martin	Third Sergeant
Chester Easley	Fourth Sergeant
Arthur Smith	Fifth Sergeant
Baylor Wilson	First Corporal
Jack Wyatt	Second Corporal
J. D. Adkins	Third Corporal
John Page	Fourth Corporal
Charles George	Fifth Corporal
Warren Russell	Sixth Corporal

Company C of the second regiment, Texas volunteers, formerly the Shaw Rifles, of Navasota...

R. H. Smith; M. Teague; S. S. Hearder; W. P. Lewis; R. W. Lones; Jno. Kennard; E. E. Lowrie; S. I. Lawther; R. D. McCulloch; Brown McDonald; A. P. Matthews; Kemp Thompson; Sam Goodman; I. N. Clark; G. C. Campbell; J. J. Clark; A. McDada; L. Cramier; C. W. Fisher; E. J. Mathews; S. Norwood; J. M. Ogg; O. B. Preston; J. S. Preston; C. S. Rowe; Max Roberts; C. W. Stanley; W. R. Kirk; H. Scott; C. George; R. L. Greer; H. C. Jones; Chas. Kirk; A. L. Ley; C. Labuzan; O. Lewis; Billie McDade; J. R. Marshall; D. M. Martin; J. E. Martin...

"More Recruits Going: W. E. Willis; T. L. Wilcox and Joe Wren of Iola... Enlisted with Navasota group....

"Late War News: "Following dispatch received here today and tacked on the board: H. H. Wilson, Navasota, Texas, Appointed corporal U. S. A. Send me five dollars Baylor".... News has been received that Sam Goodman has failed to pass the physical examination for the position as steward in the hospital corps.. He passed the rigid test in pharmacy etc. but couldn't get his head up along the measuring rod far enough. He will probably be home tonight, after making heroic efforts to break into the army, both as a soldier and a nurse...

Lieutenant Chas. Kirk, of the J. M. Shaw Rifles, of Navasota came down (Hempstead) and administered the oath to the following Hempstead boys: Warrne Russell, E. J. Mathews, Walter McDada; Joe Kemper and Sam Ephriam.

Austin, Texas May 3 1898.. Mr. Ed. F. Blackshear: We have arrived at Camp Marbry safe and sound ..... We laid over at Hearne until 3 p. m. then took the I. &G. N. .. While at Hearne we had singing, dancing and speech making.. Lee Greer composed the following toast: "Hurrah for Dewey who captured the isles from Spain. Hurrah for the Shaw rifles, who go to avenge the Maine"... signed J. Wyatt.

Company C of the second regiment, Texas volunteers, formerly the Shaw Rifles, of Navasota passed through here at noon en route to Austin.. Bryan Pilot...

Texas Troops: Orders have come at last; First and Second regiments are to proceed at once to New Orleans... Soldier life is having a bad effect on the enthusiasm of the Texans at Camp Mabry. Life is by no means a rosy dream.. Many of the men are suffering from dysentery and there is several cases of fever and one of measles in the camp. The water is very bad"...

Excerpts from letter from Chas. Kirk. Written from Austin, May 12 1898.. Second Lieut. Buffington was reinstated today and was sworn in with the balance of the boys at 2:45 today.. Weyman Taliaferro was made quartermaster sergeant in place of H. Norwood.. The Captain has requested me to say, that the boys that are known in Navasota as the "Dalton Gang" have been the best boys in camp.... The Captain is very proud of them. Mrs. Dorsey, from Navasota and Mrs. Prowse, nee Miss Eleanor Barry, were out to see us today..... Benefit of sick Soldiers: Mrs. Isaac Sellers desires the Examiner to announce that Thursday night next the ladies of the Baptist church will give an ice cream social... it will be for the benefit of the soldier boys of Company C, 2nd Texas, who are in the hospital at Miami.."

Self-Explanatory Letter: Headquarters 2nd Texas U. S. Volunteer Infantry Camp near Mobile, Ala.. May 30th 1898 to George Colberg, Esq. Navasota Texas..... The Navasota boys constitute one of the best companies of the regiment. They have a splendid captain, are all nice young boys, behave themselves, and are a credit to themselves as well as the town which sent them..... signed L. M. Openhouser (or Openheiser)

May 12 1898.... I hereby certify that the following named men were rejected on account of physical defects: H. Norwood; K. Thompson; S. E. Goodman; C. W. Fisher; W. S. Harper; A. J. Matthews; Lon Ogg; R. H. Smith; N. B. Tucker; T. L. Williams; S. Norwood; R. D. McCulloch; J. N. Barnett; J. W. Gray; A. L. Lay; Robert McFerren; W. O. Steele; S. A. Sims; Gary Thomas; J. C. White; J. F. Young.

I want to further certify that it pains me more than I can say to lose these men. They are all noble young men, as patriotic as those left behind; and had it not been for the too rigid physical examination they would, I know, have made brave and true soldiers as ever fought for country's sake. May God bless and be with them one and all.

Gordon Boone: (Captain)

Examiner Review Friday April 20 1898: Recruits: Alf Yarborough; B. Ritchie; B. McDonal; Lee Thompson; Tom Womack; Geo. Campbell; Steve Preston; Bob Campbell; Archie Irods; S. P. Lamther; Long Ogg; E. J. Mathews; Sam Ephran; Warren Russell; E. Bolton; J. W. Simpson; W. E. Farmer; A. L. Loy;

J. F. Page, Chas. C. Conway; A. B. M. Tucker; William McDade; Sam Young; Sam Burch; W. A. Harper; S. D. Lee; Dave Bebee; F. A. Rollins; R. M. West, Jr. ; Frank West; H. O. Hones; W. E. Dunlap; John Martin; Erie Thomas; E. M. Elliott; C. W. Fisher; W. P. Jones; Jim Artee; J. M. Ogg; Walter McDade; Joe F. Kemper; Henry Bolton; Jas. H. Wooten; Ed L. Bybee; Claude Stanley; Arthur Pool; R. C. Reed; Jas. R. Marshall; S. S. Hearder; Jno. C. McGaughey; Richard Flynn; Bob Bebee; Chas. Richard; J. K. Ayers, Jr. ; Albert Cartwright.

Chapter X

SOME OF NAVASOTA'S COMMUNITY CLUBS

The Navasota Civic Club
by
Mrs. Stratton W. Baker

Two past presidents of this club have passed on, Mrs. Adele Chinski Roan and Mrs. Maggie Bell Perry. This account of the club has been written to the memory of these two persons.

"Life travels upward in a spiral. She who takes pains to search the shadows of the past below us, then can better judge the tiny arc up which she climbs, more surely guess the dim curves of the future above her."

An upward spiral started 44 years ago among Navasota women, who formed a civic club. These have indeed been 44 years of achievement.

The year was 1910. Mrs. H.L. Lewis was the first president. She is still referred to as "The Mother of the Civic Club."

The first period of fifteen years saw five presidents besides Mrs. Lewis. They were the late Mrs. Maggie Bell Perry, the late Mrs. Adele Chinski Roan, Mrs. Frank Spann, Miss Nettie Brosig and Mrs. E.D. Blackshear.

This period was filled with plans for city beautification; flower growing and house and garden improvement of all kinds.

At this time the club became a member of the District and State Federation of Women's Clubs.

A much needed drinking fountain was built for animals. It was a gratifying sight on a hot August day to see this fountain surrounded by horses or mules quenching their thirst. Sometimes it might be a six mule team which had brought a heavy load of cotton to town. Cotton, hay and other agricultural products were Navasota's largest source of income in that era. Sometimes you might see a smart carriage drawn by horses or a horse drawn buggy, the means of transportation before the advent of automobiles. Again it might be a fine registered saddle horse ridden to a white lather so that the rider could meet a competitive farmer's sale of his horse to the then uncontrolled national and state markets.

The Club rooms were well furnished and located in the City Hall. The club was instrumental in having a stock law passed by the city Commission. There were many indignant citizens who were deprived of a free grazing plot for their milk cows, or buggy and carriage horses. Later they were grateful for the stock law. Many fences came down and lovely lawns and gardens could be seen from the street.

During Mrs. Roan's regime, the club was host to the District Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Roan was always considered one of Navasota's most perfect hostesses and it was said that at this meeting Texas hospitality was at its best and Navasota became known throughout the state for the warmth and graciousness of its entertainment which was done in the traditional Southern manner.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Spann, E.D. Blackshear and Miss Nettie Brosig, sidewalks were laid around the grammar school and the high school property was paid for in full.

Much war work was done under Mrs. Spann's administration. The club sponsored the Armistice Day parade, which was as all Navasota parades, led by Oscar Coe mounted on a spirited horse and carrying the National Colors.

It was now that a law was passed putting chickens behind fenced evergreen screening and a covered wagon milk delivery was started. Funds were being earmarked at this early date for a swimming pool and a club house.

The second fifteen years, 1926-1941, saw many dreams spiral upward into reality. It also saw another war. The leaders of this second era in the club's advancement were Mrs. Stratton Baker and Mrs. Sam Welch. Each served two terms and Mrs. Lewis returned for a second time as president followed by Mrs. Oscar Seward, Mrs. V.T. Buffington, Mrs. H.R. Turner and Mrs. C.V. Merriman.

Trash cans were placed at intervals on the streets. They served a dual purpose of keeping the streets and sidewalks clean and carried advertisements on their four sides which augmented the club's income.

The Cemetery Association was reorganized by a committee headed by Mrs. W.S. Craig. The first Yard Beautiful Contest was sponsored by the Civic Club and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Horace Knox and to Mrs. Sam Cook for the prettiest yards. Patsy Bell and Mattie Johnson, both colored, were also recipients of awards.

In 1936, the club sponsored a tour of gardens. The gardens of Mrs. R.F. Foster, Mrs. H.L. Stewart, Mrs. S.D. Coleman, Mrs. Will Gibbs and Mrs. Stratton Baker were opened to the public.

Due to petitions sponsored by the club, free delivery of mail and the distribution of natural gas to property owners were made available. Also a Negro civic club was organized.

At this period, the club house became a reality. Mrs. Annie Kavanaugh Anderson gave the old August Horst home to the City of Navasota in memory of her brother, Mr. Horst. The home was to be used as a municipal country club and the city at once made the Civic Club custodian of the house and grounds. The club was to restore the lovely old early Texas type house and keep the grounds and in turn was to use it for a civic club home.

Mrs. W.E. Blackshear, Mrs. Stratton Baker, Mrs. Ewing Norwood and Mrs. S.D. Coleman were a committee appointed to restore the house and add modern conveniences.

The club house had its formal opening, October 24, 1933. The committee had secured the services of the architectural department of A&M College free of charge. The planning was done in the classroom by A&M architectural students under the supervision of the professors. W.P.A. labor was available at that time and City Manager and Engineer Joe Brule, a man of extraordinary ability in his field, oversaw the improvement.

This year, 1954, marks the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the club house.

Mrs. Stratton Baker filled out Mrs. Turner's unexpired term and served another term during which time the Garden division was added to the club. A flower show was held which was an enormous success and which attracted the attention of the entire state for its beautiful and unique display of flowers and flower arrangements. Much credit for its outstanding success is due its committee; Mesdames Sam Welch, Gerald Fahey, H.H. Madeley, Velma Quinn, Will Gibbs, Annie F. Templeman, Rufus Hardy and Miss Eigie Massenberg.

A students' loan fund was added to the club's achievements and four students took advantage of the loan. The committee responsible for raising the loan fund consisted of Mrs. Clarence Moore, Mrs. Rufus Hardy, Mrs. Will Gibbs and Mrs. S.D. Coleman.

During Mrs. Merriman's term of office a style show was held. Clothes were furnished by local merchants and modeled by Margaret Johnson, Frances Ivy, May Moore and others.

Miss Kathleen Blackshear, eminent artist, a native Navasotian and teacher in the Chicago Art Institute, gave a lecture on Art Appreciation. The first Civic Club yearbook was published during Mrs. Buffington's term of office. The constitution and by-laws were revised and co-operation with other clubs of Navasota was notable. The School faculty was entertained and girls leaving in the fall for different colleges were given a luncheon by the club.

The last period of 14 years has had as its leaders, Mesdames J.T. Ferguson, Onis Dyer, R.A. Patout, Rice Buchannan and the present president, Mrs. Maurice Hanson.

Mrs. Ferguson's tenure of office was marked by the opening of the swimming pool. The civic club donated and installed the play ground equipment in the park adjoining the pool.

Red Cross and War defense work occupied the Civic Club members in 1943-1945. They were fingerprinted by J.N. Ratcliff and rolled bandages and knitted.

The club was repaired in 1949. Mrs. Onis Dyer was president and Mrs. Harry Moore was chairman of the repair committee. The student loan fund was abolished and the money used to help repair the building.

The Christmas Home Pilgrimage was started with Mrs. Patout at the head of the club and many of Navasota's beautiful homes were opened to the public. The kitchen was modernized and a piano bought.

A game party was held with Mrs. Clarence Moore chairman of the committee which augmented the club's funds by $500.00. Merchants donated the prizes.

The club was redecorated when Mrs. Rice Buchannan became president. Cedar Creek was landscaped and shrubs and flowers planted for its beautification with Mrs. Ralph Barry chairman of the committee. Mrs. Jim Mabry had charge of the care of club house and grounds.

Today the club is topping the spiraled arc of 44 years with a definite upward reach.

Miss Emma Schumacher has been treasurer of the Civic Club for 28 years. She has been an able treasurer keeping always the curves of the past evenly interlocked with those of the present and the dim curves of the future ever pointed upward.

The Fun Club

Two young girls were sitting before an open fireplace in the home of Mrs. John H. Owen a chilly January morning in 1891, idly talking about beaux and parties and other things that interest young ladies, when they began to turn over in their minds the idea of a social club for the young society girls in Navasota. They were Lillie McNair who was visiting in the Owen home and Kathrine Owen, a daughter of the house.

They ousted Julia Owen out of bed, so interested they became in the project and then and there the FUN Club, a club which survived through the years was born. The girls together with Miss Jessie Owen and Miss Hulda Miller met at the home of Miss Annie Foster soon after to further plan for the club. Things began to take shape when on January 17, they met at the home of Miss Hulda Miller together with all the girls they had invited to join the club.

Miss Julia Owen was elected the first president and Miss Anna Ehinger suggested the name FUN to mean exactly nothing but what it spelled. Through the years people puzzled themselves and tried to get the girls to divulge the meaning of the letter name but the girls were silent. I think this is actually the first time that the secret has been divulged.

Through a decade, the FUN Club was famous for its brilliant social functions. The first annual reception was held at the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom M. Owen. The guests arrived in sleighs over hard ice covered ground. The first afternoon tea ever to be had in Navasota was given by the FUN girls. The last reception which climaxed a whole decade of gay social life was held at the home of Mrs. Fannie Yarborough. Steel engraved invitations were issued and full dress, decollete gowns for the girls with trains, white ties and tails and tall silk hats for the men were a must.

For a wedding present when one of the girls was married, the club gave a dozen sterling silver spoons. Only three members of the club remained spinsters and have no spoons.

Although the club was a large one and took in many girls there were only eight charter members: Only two of these are living. They are Misses Julia and Jessica Owen. Seven other club members who are living are Mrs. Madeline Baylor Powell, Mrs. Susie Boone Wilson, Mrs. Annie Foster Templeman, Mrs. Eleanor Brosig Brown, Miss Kate Woodward and Miss Mamie Barry.

The Owen girls, who were educated in Boston, remembering the pleasure and profit they had from the Boston Library suggested that the club should have worthwhile project and they thought a library would certainly be worthwhile. They voted on it at the home of Miss Annie Foster November 12, 1892. In 1900, Mrs. Eleanor Brosig Brown was sent to San Antonio as delegate from the club to the State Federation of Women's Clubs. It was established there that it was the only library in the state to be started by a woman's club.

The library was a success from the start. A fee of $1.50 a year was charged for a membership and, of course, a small fee was required if books were kept out too long. It had a large membership, almost everybody in town joined. The library first occupied two rooms over the First National Bank. Miss Julia Owen was Librarian.

Early activities included book reviews, book chats, benefits, picnics and tennis tournaments. In fact, the club introduced tennis in Navasota. The first set was ordered from a catalogue.

Unfortunately, Navasota has never become awakened to the fact that a public library is an important need for children and adults in our city and county for we have had only one library other than our school libraries, and that is the FUN Club Library, still in existence after sixty-two years. It is kept open twice a week. A few faithful readers patronize it even though it has been relegated to a small inadequate upstairs space which discourages many book lovers, however, there is a faithful clientele. These persons justify its existence.

The Derthick Club

The first music club that we have any record of in Navasota was the Derthick Music Club. It in-

cluded the literary history of composers and their work.

Mr. Wilber Dertrick, a well known musician from Chicago, organized these clubs, which bore his name in many of the towns and cities of the United States. The Navasota Club was organized in February of 1899. Mrs. Laura Blackshear, well known music teacher and mother of Miss Ira Blackshear, was made president; Miss Margret Baylor, who was also a music teacher was vice president; Mrs. Lula Bechtol was treasurer.

Other members were Mrs. E.G. Owen, Misses Betina Jacobs, Zenobia Daunis, Cora Froelich, Irma Chinski, Ira Blackshear, Fay Bechtol, Jessica and Julia Owen, Lillian Shaw and Martha Yarborough. Later members were Mrs. Laura Gibbs, Miss Lucy Gibbs, Miss Pearl Terrell, Miss Annie Ackerman, Miss Pearl Garvin and Miss Marie Lockett.

There were no laymen in this club. Every member was a real musician, excelling either in piano or voice or violin.

Besides the musical program at each meeting and the study of composers and their work, a game of musical cards was played on stories of the composers and their compositions. The person winning the most points in the game was awarded a booklet of the characterization of the composer studied. Only high class music in piano, violin or voice was given, all music and literature being furnished by Mr. Derthick. A fee of five dollars was paid by each member.

The Pyrean Club
PYW Club

The PYW (pretty young women) was named so, for fun, but actually the members were pretty young matrons who liked to have fun and who did just that. They had beautiful parties, wore lovely clothes and served delicious food. An invitation to a PYW party was coveted. This club was established in the early nineties and lived for a number of years. Its members were Mamie Steele (Mrs. Oscar), May Terrell Blackshear (Mrs. Duncan), Adele Chinski Roan (Mrs. Lee), Mrs. R.N. Wright, Eula Knox Horlock (Mrs. Robert) Jessie Camp Chinski (Mrs. Louis), Mrs. Lillie Garvin Peeples (D.L.), Lilly Muldrew Wilkerson (Mrs. Gilmore), Clara Miller Chinski (Mrs. Clarence), Mrs. J.D. Flewellyn, Mrs. Charles W. Carr, Mrs. Mattie Bookman Craig (Mrs. W.C.), Annie Brosig Bookman (Mrs. P.B.), Stella Ogivly Wilson (Mrs. W.T.), Alice Camp Cutherall (Mrs. V.A.), Lillie White Rucker (Mrs. S.B.), and Margret Chinski Callaway (Mrs. J.M.).

The first annual reception was held at the home of Mrs. Margret Chinski Callaway. Professor Brill's Orchestra furnished the music.

The Pierian Club

The Pierian Club consisted of the debutante set. It was named Pierian from the French word meaning "Beauty" by Mrs. C.P. Spann who often chaperoned these girls. These girls were all popular and pretty. They too had their being in the gay nineties and lasted until most of the girls were married. Theirs was an era of gay balls, informal dances, picnics and parties. The members were Miss Emma Horlock who married Dr. E.A. Harris; Miss Agnes Horlock who married V. Jackson; Miss Cora Froelich who married George Winter; Miss Pearl Garvin who married J.T. Swanson; Miss Bessie Barry who married Ed F. Blackshear; Miss Lillian Shaw who married Horace H. Knox; Miss Stella Howell who married Ollie Preston; Miss Katie Norwood; Miss Mattie Brosig who married Ewing Norwood; Miss Zenobia Daunis who married Harry H. Smith and Miss Jessie Lott who married Marshall Peterson. Also, these names belong: Mrs. Nora W. Sangsten or Miss Nora Wilkerson, as she was formerly known.

The Navasota Reading Club
by
Mrs. Watts Brown

A church is an unusual place in which to start a club. Two good sisters let their thoughts wander (this was before preaching time) toward worldly pleasure. Such was the origin of the Woman's Reading Club.

Forty years cover a long period of study and various activities in carrying out the aim of the club, to promote the cultural growth of its members and to render some worthy service to the community. True to

form, American Literature was the first study course, a means by which "that cultural growth" was promoted.

The public school was selected as a community project. The presentation of a Texas flag by Mrs. J. Thomas Davis was a gala occasion. Other gifts of books, pictures, and maps were presented. Magazine subscriptions were given, too.

Members of the club were making a name for themselves for in 1914, the club was asked to be hostess to the Fourth District. All clubs in town, together with husbands and sweethearts joined in entertaining this gala crowd of fair women. Even the Grand old Brazos put on an overflow at the close of this enjoyable occasion. At this early date the Peace Movement claimed attention and ever since has been a recurring subject.

The members were becoming interested in woman's position as shown by such subjects as Laws Relating to Women and Children. A debate that the Constitution should be amended to permit women to vote was a lively question. Also, members were gaining a wider vision of World Affairs. Studying the world importance of the Panama Canal and the effect women have on industrial problems was a favorite pastime. They kept abreast of the times and studied the economic value of good roads, trade opportunities in South America, scientific housekeeping and such. The club prided itself in having a waiting list, but when Mrs. Percy Pennybacker made the statement on the convention floor that a limited membership was undemocratic the limitation was removed at once.

The club grew rapidly in membership and activity and was reaching out to community affairs. In accordance with State Federation, a Home Economics Week was planned as a project. Upon request to Extension Department of the State University, two teachers were sent to the Navasota Club. They spent a week giving instruction on conservation of fruits and vegetables. This was the beginning of World War I and was of great interest to the women.

In this connection, a health clinic was held with doctors and dentists assisting. A better baby contest was a happy climax. The school co-operated by giving the use of the auditorium. The same advantages were offered the Negroes by instructors who came from Prairie View College.

Here is something which sounds interesting. Mrs. Maggie Barry of the Extension Department of Texas A&M College visited the club and talked on rural life. This phase of work appealed to the women. A committee conferred with the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the county employing a Home Demonstration Agent. The request was granted and an agent was employed the next year. Miss Ida Reynolds blazed the trail and did splendid work for several years. Through her sponsorship, the Woman's Reading Club held a scholarship contest for rural girls' clubs. Awards were for scholarships to Texas A&M College summer short courses. This exhibit was held in the City Hall and was repeated for several years. Every exhibitor received a scholarship. The merchants became interested and the first Trades Day was inaugurated.

Another piece of rural work developed was that of sending traveling libraries to rural schools. Members contributed books from their private and personal libraries. The County Free Library movement was an issue for a long time. Visits to the County Commissioners Court were of no avail.

A County Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in 1923 and was a very worthwhile project. It was a means of getting acquainted with one another as well as the county. Meetings were held in different communities and an outstanding feature of the program was the reading of local community history. Also, leading speakers from colleges and schools appeared on the programs.

The year 1923 was the peak of the club membership. Ten debutantes crashed the ranks but in a short time six found the title of "Mrs." more attractive. An interesting debate by Mrs. John Neal and Miss Frances Rucker was held on the subject: "Resolved that we have more for which to be thankful than the people of Colonial days." At this time Texas Club Headquarters building in Austin was acquired and the club donated and became a patron.

Many special programs were enjoyed and they were always open to the public. Some of them were Texas Bible Day, Pan American Citizenship, Conservation of National Resources, International Relations and Art. Mr. Jno. D. Rogers gave a most instructive talk on the heritage of cotton. Another very interesting program was an afternoon given by Dr. E.J. Kyle of the Texas A&M College using slides and telling of his trip to South America. He brought four South American students to the program.

The club observed The Bi-Centennial of George Washington and the Texas Centennial. It took part

in the dedication of the La Salle Monument erected by the Texas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1932, a great surprise happened. The gift of the August Horst property to Navasota was made. The City Commissioners gave the use of the building to civic organizations. This was a happy realization of a dream way back in early clubdom. The Reading Club co-operated in various ways, such as in giving a piano. The club joined with the State Federation in celebrating its Golden Jubilee and the Reading Club honored Mrs. Chas. Henry as its Pioneer Member, as a founding member of the club.

Not the least of the club activities was Art Culture, expressed by various programs. One afternoon and evening, open to school and public, was a display of colored prints with the history of the artist given. In City Hall another interesting occasion was an art talk with slides given by Miss Kathleen Blackshear. Other art programs followed. One such program of real interest was a collection of real oil paintings by Texas artists. This collection had been loaned by the State Federation. Later, the Club realized there was merit and artistic worth among the members and friends. Paintings, relics and handwork were collected and a most creditable exhibit eventuated therefrom. Miss Georgia Carr of San Antonio conducted a one-person display of oil paintings which constituted an outstanding exhibit. It was held at the August Horst Club House and many friends called to see it. Miss Carr had started her art study as a little girl in Navasota, under the tutelage of Miss Ahrenbeck.

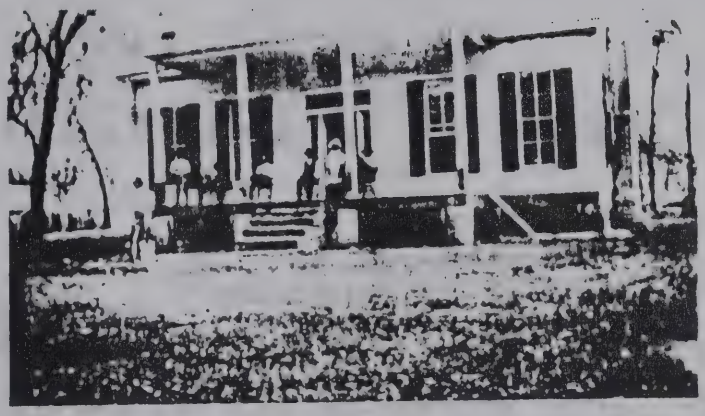
The climax of art interest culminated in November, 1949, when the Woman's Reading Club put on an Antique and Museum Display. The public was greatly surprised to see the amount of material brought forth from the attic and treasured family heirlooms. An outgrowth of this event was a greater realization of the profound amount of suitable local material for the founding of a permanent Museum at Navasota. This has been a "bee in the bonnet" of the club of recent years but has been delayed from lack of a suitable place in which to house it.

For many years collectors have carried away from historic Grimes County and Navasota many valuable and worthwhile milestone articles constituting important historical sources for generations to come.

It is a custom with the Woman's Reading Club to begin the year by inviting the new Fourth District President as a guest speaker who outlines her policy.

Among the many interesting and popular programs have been book reviews and patriotic talks. Dr. Charles Stewart of Sam Houston College gave the initial book review on John W. Thomason's literary career. Miss Mattie Pearl Henry refreshed the memory of her audience on the life of Andrew Jackson. Later she reviewed "The Raven." On a Texas Day Program, Joe Fultz, local attorney, gave a very realistic talk on the writing of the Declaration of Independence at Old Washington-on-the-Brazos, showing a large oil painting of the signers of this document. As the months and years have gone by many splendid book reviews and musical selections have been enjoyed. Of recent date the club held open house for one whom it was pleased to honor, John W. Wilson, now of the faculty of Southern Methodist University of Dallas. Miss Helen Greenwood traced the trend of his early literary career in high school and brought out the highlights of his novel, "High John Commander."

Not every club can claim a State Senator as a member. Mrs. Neveille Colson, who can explain the knotty problems of legislation is a member of this club. The club is indebted to many other local women and men speakers and musicians for special programs. Also, speakers from other clubs and nearby towns and colleges have contributed to the culture of the program and city. The co-operation and courtesies of the public school system, business firms and the local press have added much to the service of the club. Miss Julia Owen, composer of the Blue Bonnet song of Texas, is a member of the Woman's Reading Club.



The Old August Horst Home

The August Horst Club House
Maintained by the Navasota Civic Club

Chapter XI

EARLY DOCTORS

Dr. Jaminson

In the beginning, Navasota had no doctors. If the need was dire, a doctor had to come from Washington to attend the sick. When the doctors did finally begin coming to Navasota, they were second to none. Navasota has always had fine doctors with the best educational background of their eras.

It is regrettable that little is known of some very fine doctors. Dr. Armitage came to Navasota in 1859, as did Dr. McFall and Dr. Waugh. Dr. Waugh died in 1874.

Dr. David A. Jaminson was born in Augusta, Georgia in 1835. He received his medical education at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia; obtaining his degree in 1860. He practiced first in Arkansas, but being interested in the advantages of Texas, he came to Galveston where he practiced until the War. He was a surgeon in the army, stationed first in Galveston, and later in Vicksburg. His specialty was treating yellow fever. He had had the disease in Galveston; therefore he was immune. He went from place to place, wherever there was an epidemic of fever. The state sent him to Calvert where the victims were quarantined in camps about five miles from town.

He had a large practice among the Brazos-Bottom Plantations. He maintained his home in Navasota, but would be gone for a week or more at a time visiting the sick on the various plantations. Communication was kept by runners from the last plantation he had visited.

He was a strong believer in organized medicine and rarely missed a meeting of the State Medical Association.

Dr. David A. Jaminson

He was a Baptist, a Democrat, and a Mason. His first wife was Callie B. Armand, who died in Navasota in 1864. He was later married to a Miss Elizabeth Brookshire of Bryan, and after her death, he married her sister, who was the widow of Dr. J. J. Wyatt of Washington. Mrs. Lula Wyatt Amason, who lives in Navasota, was his step-daughter. Dr. Jaminson died in 1903.

Dr. Joseph N. Baylor

Dr. Joseph N. Baylor was born in Logan County, Kentucky on July 29, 1829. He died in Navasota in 1903 at the age of 74. He received his medical education by attending a series of lectures at the University of Louisville from 1851-52. He received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1855.

He came to Texas that same year and settled at Texana near Edna. At the outbreak of the civil war, he enlisted, and was appointed to head a brigade hospital with the rank of First Lieutenant. In 1864, he came to Navasota to take care of a hospital for Confederate soldiers. From that time forward, he practiced medicine in Navasota with more than ordinary success. He was forced to retire in 1898, due to ill health.

As a physician, his success was phenomenal. He had a strong religious sense of the sacredness of human life, which was a controlling influence in all his practice. He recognized the need and relied on the assistance of God and always prayed earnestly for Divine guidance in his practice.

He was a charter member of the Presbyterian church, which was organized in 1867. He was a ruling elder throughout his life. His wife was Margaret Mathews. Only one daughter, Mrs. Madeline Baylor Powell is living. His son, Joseph N. Baylor; three daughters, Barbara, Margaret, and Trunie (Mrs. Abernathy) have died some years ago.

Dr. J. T. Montgomery

Dr. Montgomery came to Navasota in 1870. He was born in Tennessee in 1838. He was graduated from the New Orleans School of Medicine in 1866. He was a member of General Forrest's Brigade during the war between the states, and served as assistant surgeon. He was captured and interned at Fort Donaldson. When asked by one of his grandchildren if he ever saw General Grant, he replied, "No, I had the opportunity once, but I did not take time to look back."

After the war he came back to Grimes County to marry Miss Helen Jeter, "the girl he left behind." He settled in the eastern part of the county and practiced in that vicinity and in Anderson. He returned to Navasota and purchased the P. E. Freeman drugstore which he operated for some years. He spent the last twenty years of his life in the home of his daughter, Nannie Greenwood and her husband, the late Dr. W. W. Greenwood.

Dr. William Goodrich
Dr. J. P. Barnett

Dr. B. B. Goodrich was the first physician to practice in Grimes County. He was an alcalde, member of the convention and signer of the Texas Declaration. He came to Washington in 1834, and died in Navasota at the age of 60 in November, 1860.

His son, Dr. William Goodrich, followed in his father's footsteps. He had the best medical training available at the time and enjoyed a large practice. He was the uncle of Mrs. Gilmo Wilkerson, the late Mrs. Jared Clark and the late Mrs. Genie Gibson, and the brother of the late Mrs. Hines Muldrew.

Little is known of Dr. J. P. Barnett other than he came here in 1866 and practiced in Navasota until his health failed, and he was forced to retire. He was well known and had a large practice. None of his family survived him, hence there is no record, not even the date of his death. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery, and has a large monument which he had placed before his death, and which only carries the date of his birth in Jefferson County, Kentucky, in 1824.

Dr. J. H. Neal

Like most of Navasota's early doctors, Dr. Neal reached Navasota via Washington. He was born in Virginia April 1, 1847. He left college when he was 17 to join the Confederate army, and was a member of Martin's battery in Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, where he served until the close of the war.

His parents came to Washington in 1866. He returned to Medical College of Alabama and received his degree in 1877. He returned to Old Washington where he practiced until he moved to Navasota in 1885.

He was an adept in treating malarial fever which was prevalent in the river bottom and low lands. There were few drugstores, so Dr. Neal carried his medicine in his saddle bags. Most of his calls were made on horseback. He was never without quinine which was the only known drug to combat the fever. There were no capsules or commercial pills, so the quinine was administered by dissolving it in a cup of black coffee. It was considered more potent if merely dissolved in water, but it was a terrific dose like that. Dr. Neal was expert in measuring doses, which he did on the end of a case Knife. He died in Navasota in April 15, 1924. His widow, who was Nelia Perry Neal, has since died as has one son, Haskins. Perry Neal, another son, resides in Waco, and a daughter, Carrie Neal Monroe, lives in Houston.

Dr. Andrew R. Kilpatrick

Dr. A. R. Kilpatrick was the only son of Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Kilpatrick; North Carolinians. He was born on a plantation near Cheneyville, La. on March 20, 1817.

He received his schooling in the best academies in Georgia. At seventeen he entered the University of Georgia at Augusta. The following year he attended the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He did not apply for a degree but returned to Georgia and secured a license to practice medicine from the Burke County Medical Board. He practiced that summer, but in the Fall he entered the Augusta Medical College, and received his degree. He practiced in Mississippi and Louisiana, where he had experience in treating both cholera and yellow fever.

He came to Texas in 1861 bringing with him, twenty white persons and sixty-two slaves. He did not reach Navasota until 1865, where he enjoyed a large practice until his death.

He wrote many scientific papers, which were published in the foremost medical journals in the country. His first contribution was a report on a case of an incised abdominal wound, and the division of the ileum with an ax. The operation was successful, the patient having recovered after twenty days. This was published in the Philadelphia Medical Journal in 1838, at a time long before the days of antiseptics, when union by first intention was rare.

Dr. Kilpatrick was interested in Meteorology and for 12 years kept a register and made Meteorological reports to the Smithsonian Institute. He was president of the State Medical Association in 1877. He was

four times married and had four sons and four daughters. He was a mason of high standing and a member of the Methodist church. He died in Navasota on September 19, 1887.

Dr. Kilpatrick wrote a brief history of Navasota in 1876. A manuscript of his document is on file in the Navasota High School. His work was published in the NAVASOTA EXAMINER REVIEW in 1924.

Dr. Alfred Huntington Ketchum

Dr. Alfred Huntington Ketchum was born in Mobile, Alabama on January 9, 1847. He had an unusual background of culture and education. His father was Colonel Charles Ketchum, well known Mobile Cotton Factor, who served the Confederacy with distinction as Colonel of the 38th regiment of Alabama volunteers. His mother was Kate Ewing of a prominent pioneer family, whose brother James K. Ewing, perished in the Alamo when just a lad of 17. His uncle was Dean of the Alabama Medical School, and this no doubt was an influence in Dr. Ketchum's decision to become a doctor.

He graduated from the Alabama Medical School in 1871. He received at the time, a gold medal for the highest honors, and a blue ribbon on his diploma. For a time he served as instructor in Anatomy in his college, but desiring to get into actual practice of medicine; he resigned.

He had had yellow fever as a boy, and being immune, he worked through one epidemic after another until he was considered an expert in the treatment of the disease.

One of his devoted nurses through many yellow fever cases was the novelist, Agusta Evans Wilson.

Dr. Ketchum was located in Washington in 1874. He practiced there successfully for several years, but seeing a greater opportunity for service, he moved to Navasota. He was married in the meantime to a beautiful Washington girl, Mary Adele Rucker, who died in 1897. Mrs. Marie Ketchum of this place is their daughter.

Dr. Ketchum made exhaustive study of Malaria and typhoid cases which abounded in the city and country until more was learned about proper sanitation.

When in 1898 there was fear of a yellow fever epidemic, in Texas, the State Health officer placed a special train at Dr. Ketchum's disposal so that he might quickly reach any spot reporting a suspicious case. He was considered a yellow fever expert and worked with Dr. Weatherfore and Dr. Guiteras of Cuba.

In 1899 Dr. Ketchum was married to Miss Hattie Terrell, a charming woman and fine pianist, whose grandfather, Dr. Robert Caldwell Nablett, was a pioneer doctor in Grimes County.

Dr. Ketchum was a man of keen intellect and personal charm, with impeccable manners and was a brilliant conversationalist. He was President and Director of the First National Bank; Director in the Telephone Company; and was a successful Druggist and had extensive farm interests.

In 1880 he was appointed Major and Surgeon in the Texas Volunteer National Guards, by Governor O. M. Roberts.

Dr. W. W. Greenwood

Dr. W. W. Greenwood was born August 22, 1874, at Courtney. He was the son of F. B. and Annie Dunham Greenwood. He received his academic education at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. He later attended the Medical Department of the University of Texas at Galveston, where he received his medical degree in 1899.

He began his practice of medicine in Plantersville and came to Navasota in 1913. He practiced here until his death on March 22, 1943. He enjoyed a large practice and had the esteem of all his patients because of his outstanding honesty and his dedication to his profession. He was a member of the Grimes County Medical Association; the State Medical Association, and the American Medical Association. He was serving as city health officer at the time of his death, and as local surgeon for the S. P. and M. P. railroads. He was a loyal and active member of the Methodist Church, was also a member of the Board of Stewards, having served as chairman of the Board.

He took an active part in civic affairs; was president of the School Board, a Mason, and a Shriner.

His widow was the former Nannie Montgomery. The children born of this union are Miss Helen Greenwood of Houston; Dr. W. M. Greenwood, who practiced successfully in Navasota for several years, but now is in West Columbia; and Mrs. Ralph Nemir of Dallas.

Dr. Stonewall Jackson Emory

Dr. S. J. Emory was born at Opelika, Alabama on September 17, 1872. His parents were Dr. Aurelius and Olive Buckelew Emory. His father had served as a surgeon under General Robert E. Lee.

By taking special examination, Dr. Emory entered the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at the age of 13. He graduated with a B.S. degree at the age of 17. Next year he entered the pre-medical school of the University of Virginia. He completed his medical work at Tulane University in 1893. He interned at Johns Hopkins and chose Navasota as the best location in which to pursue his chosen profession.

He had a large and successful practice during his years in Navasota. He was married to Anne Templeman in 1897. There were two children born of this union; Robert Birrell Emory, who died in 1899, and Anne Olive Emory who is married to Douglas Wister Howell of Bryan.

Dr. and Mrs. Emory visited Vienna in 1924 where Dr. Emory had six months' study and instruction in eye surgery. In December of 1924, he received a diploma of merit signed by the staff of the University of Vienna and he was invited by Dr. Hirsch to become a member of the staff. He declined because of a strong love for his native land. Dr. and Mrs. Emory lived their entire married life on the same block of ground on which Mrs. Emory was born. Dr. Emory died Oct. 17, 1941 and Mrs. Emory died May 9, 1951, and was buried beside her husband.

Dr. Walter T. Wilson

Dr. Walter T. Wilson, son of Hugh Hammil and Maggie Martin Wilson, was born in Navasota on Oct. 12, 1871. Dr. Wilson studied medicine under the tutoring of Dr. A. R. Kilpatrick, when he was only 15. After that, he worked in the offices of several other doctors thus acquiring a first-hand knowledge of medicine before he enrolled in the Memphis Hospital College, where he received his medical degree in 1891. He interned in the City Hospital in Memphis and returned to Texas, and practiced in Edna until 1893 after which time he came to his home-town to devote his talents and skill to his own people. He did Post-Graduate work at the Polio Clinic of New York, taking nine courses and took one course of graduate work in Chicago. He was a member of the county and State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association.

He was married to Miss Stella Ogilvy of Palestine. To this union were born Ogilvy (deceased) Charles, and Travis.

Editor's Note:

At a meeting of the Editorial Board, it came to light that no mention had been made in the manuscript for this book of the following doctors who practiced at Navasota: Dr. R. D. Harris, Dr. Bowen, Dr. Hugh Wilson, Dr. Barnett, and Dr. D. L. Peebles. It was reported that Dr. Peebles did some research during war which has been recorded in medical history.

While the intervention of death prevented Miss Chinski's completion of the practice of medicine of Navasota, it should be stated that Navasota has been noted for its distinguished physicians.

Mention of the practice of medicine at Navasota today calls to mind the names of the city's fine physicians, Dr. S. D. Coleman, Dr. Marius Hansen, Dr. E. T. Ketchum, Dr. H. E. Stewart, and Dr. Hardy Thompson.

Navasota physicians cooperated in financing and operating the Navasota Medical Center on Washington Avenue and the Brazos Valley Sanitorium. People at Navasota have been proud of the fact that never has one dollar of money been borrowed or used from local, state, or national governmental units to finance local hospitals. Local doctors have seen to the successful and proper management of hospital service through their own private initiative and enterprise.

Each of the five Navasota physicians above mentioned has distinguished himself in one way or another at the national level. Each has been highly esteemed and well loved by clients and others alike, particularly at Navasota but also throughout the general area.

It should be remembered that this is not a complete history. The untimely death of Miss Maurine Chinski, author of this book, brought the writing of the history to a premature close.

The Practice of Dentistry

Mere mention of the practice of dentistry of Navasota calls to mind the names of pioneer dentists who made quite a name for themselves in that profession here. Dentists at Navasota have enjoyed a professional reputation second to none in the nation. Navasota people have long been proud of the fact that the city was staffed with the best dentists.

Dr. Osborn S. Johnson

Dr. Osborn S. Johnson came to Navasota from Troy, Alabama in 1888 and practiced dentistry here until the time of his death in 1907. He came from a distinguished family of cultural people in Alabama. Many members of that family served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Dr. Osborn S. Johnson's father was a practicing physician in Alabama.

Dr. Robert A. Johnson

Dr. Robert A. Johnson, who practices dentistry at Navasota today is a son of Dr. Osborn S. Johnson mentioned above. He is a graduate of the Vanderbilt University Dental College, Nashville, Tennessee. Like his father, Dr. Johnson has an extensive practice, many friends from far and near, and is particularly loved by those whom he has served.

Dr. Langston James Goree II

Dr. James Langson Goree II came to Navasota in 1867 and practiced dentistry from then until his death in 1888. He was born in Marion, Alabama and received his dental training at Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Goree and various members of his household were distinguished by service during the Civil War.

Dr. Langston James Goree III

Dr. Langson James Goree III is the son of Dr. Langson James Goree II mentioned above. He was graduated from the Vanderbilt University Dental College in 1895 and commenced the practice of Dentistry at Navasota immediately. He continued this practice at Navasota until retirement early in 1954. Dr. Goree at the age of 81 enjoys his many friends at Navasota. He distinguished himself in many ways in the practice of dentistry here and made several noteworthy contributions to the field of knowledge in dentistry.

Dr. Herbert E. Schulze

Dr. Herbert E. Schulze, one of Navasota's well loved dentists, was graduated from Vanderbilt University's College of Dentistry and came to Navasota as a beginning dentist. After establishing himself in practice here, he married one of the city's popular young school teachers, Miss Esther Perry. Dr. Schulze has not only built an extensive practice at Navasota, but he has also distinguished himself nationally by a contribution in 1945 to The National Yearbook of Dentistry, when he became a member in the American College of Dentistry.

Dr. H. H. Madeley

Dr. H. H. Madeley, a graduate of the Dental School of Baylor University, Waco, Texas has made an enviable record not only for himself but also for the City of Navasota in the practice of his chosen profession. One of the younger practitioners here, he has been widely recognized as one of the state's better dentists. He has a wide circle of friends with whom he has become much appreciated.

Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that the untimely death of Miss Maurine Chinski writer of Navasota History brought the preparation of a history of Navasota to a premature close. No person should feel injured through any omission in this volume, because Miss Chinski was not through writing. It has been pointed out in the Preface that the editorial board only prepared the finished manuscript for publication. No attempt was made to write a complete history because time did not permit.

Chapter XII

PIONEER LAWYERS AT NAVASOTA

The bar was early represented in Navasota, some of its members attained distinction. Among the very early members of the bar were Shepherd and Singleterry and Colbert and Caldwell about 1860. Denmam Shannon came in 1861. He was a kinsman of the late Haynes Shannon a brilliant lawyer, who also practiced law in Navasota in the 1900's. He was born in Independence in 1872 and died in Navasota in 1936. He was married to Miss Kate Alice Lott, from one of Navasota's prominent families in 1906. To this union were born two daughters, Cathrine the widow of D. M. Stewart who was killed in the Texas City disaster in 1947 and Mary, who is married to Dewitt Crawford and lives in Navasota.

After the war J. Hutchison and D. May, Jr., were lawyers here also. Capt. J. E. Preston who was the father of the late Will C. Preston who was married to Miss Anna Ehinghner a granddaughter of Jesse Grimes for whom Grimes county was named, Bertha who married Mr. Sage and lives in Galveston, Hilda who is Mrs. Woodward Lesterjet and Ollie who was married to Miss Stella Howell.

Other early lawyers were J. T. Smith, Strickland, F. V. Greenwood, J. R. Jeter, Judge Easton, Westmoreland, J. R. Kennard, E. C. Everett, A. G. Teague, Webb Teague, Major Hannibal Boone.

Major Boone practiced law in Hempstead in 1859. He enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private and did border duty which he disliked. He was a member of Col. John Ford's regiment. He was transferred to duty under Capt. McDade in the vicinity of Galveston. He became a major under the Col. Joseph E. Terrell. He lost his right arm and two fingers from his left hand in a battle at Fordoche, Louisiana. He was disabled from further field service but after his wounds were healed he reported back for duty to Gen. McGruder, commanding the department of Texas, for such duties as he was able to perform. He practiced law in Anderson in partnership with I. G. Searcy in 1876. He was elected attorney general of Texas and served one term. He never again entered the political arena but practiced law in Navasota until his retirement. He was in partnership with Capt. T. D. Cobbs eminent Texas jurist. He was chiefly instrumental in organizing the first Camp of Confederate Veterans in Navasota. He was married to Miss Sue H. Gordon. To them were born, Judge Gordon Boone who practiced law in Navasota and later located in Corpus Christi where he now lives. His wife was Miss Scarborough. Miss Susie, widow of Arthur Wilson of Navasota, Evelyn, one of Navasota's early teachers, Judge Hood Boone, now a lawyer in Corpus Christi, Latham, who married Miss Virgie Scott and who is the father of Judge Latham Boone, Jr., present county judge and Louise who is Mrs. H. V. Gudger of Houston.

Alexander Franklin Brigance was born near Anderson December 17, 1852. He was married to Miss Alice Osborne also of Anderson. They have one son Lewin Brigance of Silsbee. Mr. Brigance practiced law in Anderson for a number of years before coming to Navasota where he practiced until the time of his death. He served the county as district clerk and was also a member of the Texas legislature. He was a Methodist, a Mason and a Shriner. He was a brother to the late Mrs. Mattie Foster.

Macdonald Meachum formerly of Anderson practiced law in Navasota in the early 1890's. He was the son of Col. W. W. and Mary McDonald Meachum. He was married to Miss Lucile Shaw of Navasota in 1899. While practicing in Navasota, he was elected to the legislature, where he served 1903, 1904, and 1905. He was then elected to the State Senate where he served until 1911. He resigned to practice law in Houston where he distinguished himself in his profession until ill health forced his retirement.

Judge Thomas P. Buffington, a native of Anderson, also practiced law in Navasota for some years. He was a brilliant lawyer and a man of high character. He was an eloquent orator. He served the state legislature for several terms; was county judge for three four-year terms and as county attorney for four years. His widow is the former Miss Vivienne Taylor. There are five living children who were born to this couple; Mrs. J. R. Gaines of Austin, Thomas of Los Angeles; Beverly, Lillian Claire, and Edward, all of Anderson. One son George Patrick was killed in an airplane crash while serving as a member of the U. S. Air Force. Judge Buffington retired to his country home in Anderson some years before his death, January of 1952.

Judge S. W. Dean came to Navasota in 1917 and had a successful practice here until his death in 1940. Prior to coming to Navasota, he had lived in Madisonville, where he was county attorney 1901-1905. In 1909 he was appointed District Judge of the 12th judicial district by Governor Campbell to fill the

unexpired term of Judge Hood Boone, resigned. He married Miss Mary Newton in 1892. To this union were born Ethel of Beaumont; Jennie Lou (Mrs. J. M. Oliphant) of Italy, Texas; R. W. whose wife was Miss Louise Conder. The R. W. Deans live in Navasota where Mr. Dean is also practicing law. He is a Methodist and very active in the Boy Scout movement. He served some years as city attorney. The Deans have two children; Robert Conder and Kay.

Hon. H. L. Lewis came to Navasota from Courtney. He practiced law here until the time of his death some years ago. He served as mayor of Navasota at one time and as senator from this district. He was married to Miss Ella Cox of Navasota. One son, H. L. Jr. was born of this union. H.L. Jr. also was a lawyer and was city attorney here before going to Houston to practice. H.L. Jr. died in 1952. His widow and his mother both reside in Houston.

Joe Fultz and Artie McWhorter Fultz, both lawyers, form a husband and wife team. They came to Navasota from Anderson in 1938. Mr. Fultz was county attorney from 1941 through 1944. He was assistant attorney general under Grover Sellers in 1945-46. At one time he served as secretary of the School Board. The Fultzs have three children, Bonnie Elaine, Joe King, and Millard.

W.E. Baron, well-known Navasota lawyer, came to Navasota from Iola in 1947. His wife, the former Nanet Selman of Jewett, had been postmistress in Iola for 12 years. Judge Baron was county attorney from 1937 to 1940. He was District Attorney from 1947 to 1950. He was a World War veteran and is prominently identified with Veterans of Foreign Wars. A son, Billy, is married and lives with his family in Houston. A little grandson, Jim Bill, the child of the Barons' daughter, Martie Ruth (deceased) is being reared by the Barons.

Hal B. Stoneham was born in Stoneham in 1883. He was educated at the University of Virginia where he obtained his LLD. He practiced in Stoneham for a few years and came to Navasota about 1893 when he became a member of the law firm NEAL and BOONE. His senior partners were two eminent lawyers, George D. Neal and Gordon Boone. After a few years he established his own office. He was county attorney two different times.

George D. Neal

The late ex-Lieutenant Governor George D. Neal was born in Amelia Court House, Virginia, the son of Elizabeth and George Douglas Neal. He attended Baylor University and taught school for a time. He was Deputy County Clerk of Austin County and worked days while he read law at night. He was admitted to the bar and moved to Navasota and set up his practice. He built up an excellent practice. He was County Judge for Grimes County for one term, declining to accept another term. He was State Senator from this district, serving several terms. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Texas in the Fall election of 1902, with S.W.T. Lanham as Governor.

They were inaugurated January 20, 1903. The inauguration ceremonies culminating in an inaugural ball in the evening were said to be the most elaborate and most brilliant up to that time. Governor Neal had as his partner in the Grand March, Mrs. McDonald Meachum, the former Miss Lucile Shaw of Navasota, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw.

When Governor Neal had finished his administration as Lieutenant Governor, the Dallas News said of him "he was a man who went into office with clean hands and he came with his life an open book."

He was married to Miss Fannie Brooks of Navasota. Their children, all living in Navasota are Mrs. Linus Johnson (Maud) Mrs. H.H. Scott, (Georgia), and George Douglas. He died in 1916.

Addenda

Conlaw Michael Spann was a promising young lawyer who received his early legal training in the office of Judge Jones B. Bowen. After passing his bar examination be became a practicing attorney, county attorney, and later city attorney. He was elected to the state legislature, but he died in October, 1918 previous to the opening of that session.

Alfred Huntington Spann was one of Navasota's ablest lawyers. He was a graduate of the law school of the University of Texas and received his diploma at the First Officers' Training Camp of Leon Springs. After returning from the fighting in France in 1919, he opened his law office and practiced here until his death in 1939.

Chapter XIII

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS*

Some Landed Gentry of Early Days

Dr. Thomas E. Blackshear was born in Thomasville, Georgia. He came to Navasota in 1857 and settled on the site now known as the "Bob Moore" home.

He owned property on each side of the Anderson highway from the Ward Templeman property on the North side to the Clyde Prestwood property and on the south and across the highway the property in the area of the Lutheran church. When General Blackshear came with his familty to Navasota from Georgia, it took three months to make the trip. The trip was made overland in hacks, carry-all and wagons. It took quite a train of vehicles to convey his possessions, his large number of slaves and his family to his new home.

The pear orchard on the south side of the highway on the Thane place was planted by his son W. E. Blackshear and many of the trees bear fruit today.

General Blackshear was a close friend of General Sam Houston and General Houston stopped over night as his guest on his trips from Washington-on-the-Brazos to Huntsville. General Blackshear reared a large family and owned large plantations. He died of yellow fever in 1867.

The first Fosters to come to this country came fron Edinborough, Scotland and settled in Hampton, Virginia. From there, they traveled, most of them, to Alabama and Texas to make their homes. They have always been important men in any community in which they settled. Many of them were doctors, some entered business and many loved the land and acquired large land interests.

Dr. Robert B. S. Foster was born in Forsyth, Georgia and died in Navasota at the age of 84. This was in 1901. He was a practicing physician. His wife was before their marriage, Miss Charlotte Pinckard.

His son, Dr. Thomas C. Foster came to Washington-on-the-Brazos with his parents when a young child. He received his academic education at Soule University at Chapel Hill and later taught there. He received his Medical education in New Orleans and Galveston where he got his degree.

He joined the confederate army and was a member of Hood's Brigade. After the war, he practiced medicine in the north end of the county for several years. He had a great love of the land however and decided to give up his profession in favor of farming. He moved to Navasota in 1868 and acquired vast holdings of land and was a very successful farmer.

He was married in 1865 to Miss Annie R. Blackshear, a daughter of General Thomas E. Blackshear. They lived on the property which is now occupied by the Thane sisters.

Dr. Tom Foster was a Methodist and a Democrat. He loved fine horses and kept a stable of blooded animals. He kept a special man, Mr. Lane, to keep them groomed and fit. He often took them to the race track a few miles from Navasota for a work out and for fairs or other events where racing was part of the entertainment.

It has been said of Robert Savage Bourde Foster, that few men have achieved as much as he did in his short span of years. He died in 1899 at the age of 48. He was born in Washington but came to Navasota with his parents at an early age.

The Foster farm was only three miles from town and on that farm at the age of 14, young R. S. B. Foster began his career as a farmer. It was a career, for Mr. Foster was something of a perfectionist. Whatever he did he did well and with everything he had in him. He was a natural money maker and a fine judge of values. He loved the land and as the years passed he acquired large holdings. As many as fifty families derived their sustenance from his farms.

He might have been prominent politically for he was known to be a man of integrity, with a mind which could plan as well as execute, but he was quiet and retiring and did not care to be a public figure.

He was given the opportunity to help organize one of Navasota's largest banks but declined the offer. He belonged to no fraternal orders nor was he a member of any church though he believed in its efficacy

*The early death of Miss Maurine Chinski, author of this book, may have resulted in incompleteness of this list.

and was brought up under the influence of Methodist parents.

He was married to the late Mrs. Mattie Brigance Foster of Anderson in 1883. Her father Franklin Brigance was Grimes County's first tax collector in 1846 and her mother was Susan Rogers Brigance.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. B. Foster were the parents of three children, Nettie Rose (Mrs. Stratton Baker), Georgia (Mrs. Will Rogers) and Robert Franklin Foster. Mrs. Rogers has died but Mrs. Baker and Robert Franklin live in Navasota.

August Horst came to Navasota in 1866. He came with his possessions in an ox drawn wagon. He brought with him ten yoke of oxen. He was barred from fighting in the Confederate Army because of defective hearing but he was a rabid Johnny Reb and hauled cotton for the government from Austin to Brownsville.

He kept books for R. B. Templeman when he was a young man. Later he with J. M. Shaw organized the Horst-Shaw bank. He was one of the early stockholders in The First National Bank which was organized more than 60 years ago.

He lost his wife many years ago and they also lost their only child, a little girl. He was an excellent farmer and owned many acres of land. After he retired, he lived in his lovely old farm home, usually with a man friend for companionship. He fell from his porch in the early 1920's and died as a result of the accident.

Mr. Horst was liked by almost everybody. He did many kindnesses that no one knew of. He did not believe in letting the right hand know what the left hand did.

He was actually the town's "Scattergood Baines." He used to drive a fine red horse hitched to an ancient buckboard. He hated automobiles with a deadly hate and never owned one although a very rich man.

There were not too many automobiles in town at the time but Bobbie Horlock owned the very biggest one. It was a huge Oldsmobile and took a street to turn around in. Bobbie's wife Eula liked nothing better than to fill her car with young women and whiz past Mr. Horst, riding calmly along in his buckboard. She'd tear past him, honking her horn furiously leaving a trail of dust to settle all over the old man in his open vehicle. He'd get so mad his face would turn purple and the things he shouted would not look well in print.

He had a mania for keeping records. He kept records of the weather; the rain fall; and the cotton crop from year to year. He kept a record of his live stock, putting down the date of birth of any increase and gave to each animal a name. He kept a record of every child born in Navasota, its name and its parents' names. When he died, there was one room in his house stacked to the ceiling with records. His nephew did not destroy them but locked them away in a house on the farm.

The beautiful old farm home, set in a grove of live oak trees, with a sweeping greensward all around, was given to the city by his niece, Mrs. Annie Kavanaugh Tobin Anderson of Austin, to be used as a municipal country club. The women of the Civic Club have it in charge. For a small fee it may be used by any citizen of Navasota. The Navasota Golf Club rents its green from the civic club. There are weddings, dances, card parties, club meetings, banquets, class reunions, family reunions, almost any sort of entertainments you can think of, held there. The club usually has a waiting list. It is a memorial to a great-hearted man and its donor and former owner will ever be kept in the hearts and minds of Navasotians in grateful and affectionate remembrance.

Mr. Willie, (Willie Backloupe) affectionately called by almost everybody, was born just two years after the civil war, in a little frame house just across the street from the Schumacher Oil Works. That important enterprise had not been born but Mr. Henry Schumacher, its founder, had a shop in the same location, where he manufactured doors, window sashes and other items in woodwork.

When Will grew up he chose for his profession, painting and decorating. One of his first jobs was painting some very heavy blinds which Mr. Schumacher had made for the first Methodist Church which was built about 1875. The church was a long wooden building with many windows on each side. Mr. Will said those blinds must have been built to endure forever, they were so massive, he could scarcely handle them without help and weighed about forty pounds apiece.

Mr. Will although 87 years old has a mind as alert as a young man's. It is a storehouse of wonderful historical lore.

There were only private schools in the early days of Navasota, so when Will was seven his mother sent him to Miss Mattie Cone's private school. According to Mr. Will, Miss Mattie was a perfect virago.

She was cross and crabbed and pounced upon the children for the slightest infraction of her rules.

Once she made Mr. Will kneel upon some hard peas for hours. He was almost paralyzed when at last she permitted him to get up. He could barely hobble home. When his mother learned what had happened she was furious and vowed to vent her Irish spleen upon Miss Mattie, but Miss Mattie soon moved to San Antonio, a wider field for her endeavors. Here, however, her punishment overtook her. She whipped one of her pupils so severely that she was hauled into court dismissed from school and barred from ever teaching again.

His next teacher was Mrs. Miller. She was the mother of Mrs. R. A. Horlock, Sr., and the grandmother of Mrs. Agnes Jackson and Mrs. Gladys Ewing. She was as gracious and beautiful as Miss Mattie had been cross and ugly. Will adored her. Once when he was naughty she offered him a choice of punishments. Either he could take a licking or stay after school for a lecture. Naturally he chose the lecture but he wished he had chosen the whipping. You'd have to be lectured to by Mrs. Miller to know just how ashamed and sorry she could make a bad little boy feel. "She" he said, "will always linger in my mind as a great and gracious lady."

His last teachers were Miss Lucy Brown and Professor Clark. Miss Lucy became Mrs. Clark and both of them taught in Atchinson Institute where Mr. Will received his diploma. As highest ranking pupil, he received the Peabody medal, a huge bronze affair which was yearly awarded honor pupils by Peabody Institute of Memphis, Tennessee. Ed Ahrenbeck and Jennie Vickers were the other members of his class.

It is a far cry from the paved streets of now to the knee deep muddy thoroughfares of yesteryear. After a rain the streets were so muddy that wagons bogged down to their hubs right on Washington Avenue. Once there was a hole so deep in the location where Ernest Perry is now in business that an entire wagon might have been submerged in it. Mr. Will painted a sign that read "No Fishing Allowed." Next day Mayor Charles Stewart dumped several loads of crushed rock into the hole and made it safe.

Will was a member of the Navasota Guards. Gordon Boone was captain; Tom Buffington, Lieutenant; Hammond Norwood, top sergeant. The company was the first militia to enter Galveston after the frightful storm of 1900.

Navasota had a baseball nine then, second to none in the country. The men scored many brilliant victories all over this part of the state. Some of the great players were Will, Ollie Preston, Bobbie Horlock, Lewin Brigance and the star of the nine, Virgil Garvin.

Virgil Garvin began his baseball career with the Texas League and pitched for Sherman and Denison. He was bought by the National League and pitched for both New York and Chicago. His pitching arm gave out and he went to California to recuperate where he died.

Captain Edgar de Maret came to Navasota in 1850 from Louisiana. Settled four miles east of town on a farm now owned by Gerald Lott. The house was moved to Navasota about 1856. He was a member of the first school board. During the Civil War he served as Captain, training troops from this area. He was a member of St. Paul's Parish.

Grimes County Named from Jesse Grimes

Perhaps the story of Jesse Grimes has no place in a history which is a history of Navasota but because he lived on Grimes Prairie just a few miles away and because he and his wife Rosanna were here often I like to think that our history was in part made by Jesse Grimes for whom Grimes County was named.

The family, who came from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Virginia in 1640 is first mentioned in the census of 1790.

Jesse Grimes was born in 1788 and died at Grimes Prairie in 1866. He became interested in Texas and Austin's colony. He had married and was living in Alabama. The Jesse Grimes had had five children when his first wife died. He made a trip to Texas in December 1825 to spy out the land. He remarried Rosanna Ward and the family moved to Texas. They stayed for a time in east Texas and then moved to a farm carved out of the soil. The land took his name and was called Grimes Prairie. Here he spent the rest of his life. His entire life was spent in the service of his chosen home. Many early land grants bear his name since he was a surveyor. He served as judge in various higher courts under the Republic and the State.

He was one of the Council; a signer of Texas Declaration of Independence, was a member of the Legislative Branch of the government of the Republic and of the State, a continuous service.

His chief gift to Texas however was his son Alfred Calhoun Grimes one of the heroes of the Alamo, aged 18.

Jesse Grimes was Secretary of the Treasury under the Republic. His granddaughter, Anna (Mrs. W.C. Preston) of Fort Worth has a bill showing payment for a wagon and team used in hauling provisions to the Battle of Goliad. She also has a letter from William B. Travis appointing Jesse Grimes Alcalde.

The parents of Charles Ehingher were Heinrich and Charlotte Ehingher. They left Speya, Bavaria in 1832, because of encroachments of military rule, and settled at Newberry, now part of Cleveland, Ohio. Charles was the youngest of six children. He grew up with the Garfield boys and had fun skating on the Ohio River and the Erie Canal.

An older brother at the age of 18 served in the United States Army in the War with Mexico. He kept a diary and his descriptions of his life on the Texas border, its wild life and flowers, and its clear streams to bathe in no doubt influenced Charles to come to Texas. He settled in Harrisburg and engaged in railroad clerical work. He was employed in Houston and saw the H&TC railroad make its way to Navasota and on to Denison.

During the War between the States he was detailed to railroad duty and conveyed troops, money and provisions from Galveston Island to the Mainland.

While in Harrisburg, he married Nancy Grimes, youngest daughter of Jesse and Rosanna Grimes. They later moved to Grimes County and reached Navasota in 1872. Mr. Ehingher built a two story white house where the home of the late Mrs. Sam Cook stands. Here he and Rosanna reared their family; Anna, George, Jessie and Lillian.

Mr. Ehingher was associated with the F. W. Brosig hardware firm and continued with them until his death in 1897.

He was secretary and treasurer of the Baptist church for many years and also served as city secretary for Navasota.

Horatio Woodward, father of Miss Kate Woodward of Navasota, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, July 4, 1819. He came to Texas in 1839 and settled in Leon County where he lived for some years. He came to Navasota when it was still a frontier town and operated a general mercantile store at the location where Tate's cleaning plant is. In 1877, the store was destroyed by fire and Mr. Woodward did not rebuild but turned his attention to farming and cattle raising. He was among the first to stock his ranch with Jersey cows. He shipped his cattle by the car load to the market. He was a member of the city council, several years serving the city as alderman. He died in 1896 possessed of a large ranch and extensive city property.

James Rodes was born in Nelson County, Virginia, in 1847. His mother was Mary Anderson. The names Rodes and Anderson were closely associated with the early history of Virginia.

When a young man he visited Texas with two friends. They were so well pleased that they decided to stay and located in Washington, Texas.

Miss Georgia Henderson, daughter of a prominent Washington family attended school in Galveston. Her brother John A. Henderson had enlisted in Company E (Dixie Blues Fifty Texas Regiment, Woods Texas Brigade C.S.A.). He had lost an arm and was sent home to recuperate.
It was Christmas and his sister Georgia came home to see her brother. It was then she met James W. Rodes and a romance followed. They were married in Washington and lived there in an old red brick house, which still stands on the Brenham highway.

Later they moved to Navasota where Mr. Rodes along with farming interests, engaged in the cotton warehouse business with Mr. S. J. Walker. The firm continued until a general mercantile, wagon and saddle business was added. The firm name was then changed to Rodes and Owen.

Mr. Rodes was a consistent member of the Baptist church and he and his wife had a far reaching influence for good in the church and without. They helped build the church as it stands today. He was a director of the Citizen's National Bank and was in front of every movement for the advancement of Navasota morally and in a business way. He died in 1903 and Mrs. Rodes died in 1921. There were seven children born of their union. Three died very young and one daughter, Mrs. J. M. Eubank (Alice Rodes) has passed on.

The living children are Mrs. Mary R. Carr, San Antonio; Mrs. Ada Gibbs, Navasota; and G. E. Rodes, Navasota. There are two grandchildren; Miss Georgia Carr, San Antonio; and Mrs. Mary R. Gibson,

Navasota.

William J. Terrell came to Texas from Georgia in 1856. He was one of the first school teachers in Navasota and was the first secretary of the Baptist church.

He was married to Hattie Neblett, daughter of Dr. R. C. Neblett, the first doctor in Grimes County, of Virginia. They lived about three miles from town.

Mrs. Terrell's family had come from Virginia when she was about three. She was a raconteur of no mean ability and the stories she told her children and grandchildren depicted vividly her life as a pioneer child and woman. She went to school in Anderson to a private school for young ladies. Later she taught music in Navasota to a paying clientele as well as to her own daughters.

Seven children grew up in her home. W. J. Terrell, Jr.; E. H. Terrell and A. P. Terrell were usually spoken of as the Terrell brothers since together they built up their farms and gins. The three of them established a farm empire. They had a large general store and were stockholders in the First National Bank.

W. J. Terrell, the eldest of the three concentrated on farming and gave sound counsel to his younger brothers. He accomplished much in his short life as he died in his late forties. His widow, Mrs. Etta Sangster Terrell died in 1953 at the age of 84. Their children are J. Percy Terrell, president of The First National Bank and Mary Sangster Terrell, a pianist of rare talent. Percy Terrell was married to Ruth Lewis and they have two children, Mary who is Mrs. Clyde Peterson and Billy Joe who is married. They both live in Navasota.

After the death of his brother Joe, E. H. Terrell continued as the farmer of the family. He managed a large farm at Allen Farm, the home farm east of Navasota and a number of smaller farms. He was especially interested in farm machinery and invented several new machine elements which he used but never patented. He continued the general store after the death of his brother Joe and later built a beautiful modern store on the location The First National Bank now occupies. It was first managed by W. W. Sangster and later by Bryant Terrell.

Mr. Terrell was president of The First National Bank for many years. He was a Mason and a Shriner and attained the York and Scottish rites. He was a bachelor.

A. P. Terrell managed the Terrell store when it was located on the corner of Washington Avenue and Tenth Street. He also shared in the farming interests but his main interest was in the store. His widow is Mrs. Grace B. Toland having remarried after Mr. Terrell's death. The A. P. Terrells had one son, Artur P. Terrell who is a successful Houston Attorney.

R. C. Terrell was the brother who did not choose to farm. He preferred a business career and a very successful one he had. He was secretary of the Peden Iron and Steele Company of Houston for many years and one of the large stockholders in that firm. He took much pride in the growth of Houston and was a consistent booster for its development. His wife was Miss Mary Spann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Spann of Old Washington-on-the-Brazos and Navasota. She was one of Navasota's finest teachers. After her husband's death, she returned to Navasota where she was active in Red Cross work. She, too, died several years ago.

Hattie Terrell, the eldest Terrell daughter was married to Dr. A. H. Ketchum. She was a talented musician and played the organ for the Baptist church and Sunday School. She is still keenly alert at past 80 and has several hobbies; genealogy, stamps and pitchers. She is a member of the Baptist church and of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her son, Dr. E. T. Ketchum, is one of Navasota's leading physicians.

May T. Blackshear was married to Ducan Blackshear, a member of the Swanson Grocery Company. He was superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School for some years and a one time member of the school board.

Mrs. Blackshear was a club woman having membership in musical and cultural clubs as well as being a D. A. R. and a D. R. T. She loves music and was an excellent pianist. She played the organ and piano for her church and clubs. The Duncan Blackshears had one daughter, Kathleen, who is at present a teacher in the Art Institute of Chicago.

Pearl Terrell married John B. Daniel a prominent attorney from Temple, Texas, where they made their home. Mrs. Daniels is an accomplished musician. She plays the piano and pipe organ. She is a piano teacher, teaching a limited number of pupils including several of her grandchildren. She is a

composer of fine music varying in type from religious composition to light dance music. She does frequent radio broadcasting and plays for churches and clubs. She is a widow. Her children are Doris Daniel Powell, Clair Daniel Maze and Harriet May D. Herd.

Julian Edgar Watkins was born on his father's (Dr. Franklin Watkins) plantation near Linden, Alabama, in 1857. He was privately tutored and at the age of seven he was well versed in Greek, French and Latin which was the custom of the day. He attended the University of Alabama, majoring first in pre-medicine but later changing to architecture.

He did not come to Texas until after his mother had died in 1883. He arrived in Anderson in 1884 and spent his first night in the Smith Hotel. Next day he set out for Navasota afoot. He met Mr. Bob Foster en route and the two became friends and still later he became Mr. Foster's overseer on his farm east of Navasota. He operated a grocery store still later. Due to a credit business with poor collections, he lost this business in 1887.

He then rented a farm from Mr. August Horst and while living on this place he married Mrs. Falba Love Taylor with whom he lived until his death in 1936. The Watkins had five children, two of whom died early. Two daughters, Mrs. J. T. Simmons and Mrs. Emmett Alley, live in Navasota. A son is Robert Watkins of Houston.

Mr. Watkins designed and built many Navasota homes. He took great pride in the unusual touch he gave to some of the houses he created. The stained glass window in the W. W. Steele place, later the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Craig was imported from Italy. The Black Walnut stair banister in the Gus Steele home had to be bought in another state. He was the contractor for the Jim White home and often told of how particular Mr. White was in using only the very best materials.

Dr. S. D. Coleman consulted with him before he built the first wing of the Brazos Valley Hospital. He traveled with Dr. Coleman to examine hospitals over the state. When the hospital was finally completed under his direction it was a source of great pride to him. He had a great and unusual philosophy of life. He loved people and had confidence in every human being, believing that people were fundamentally good rather than evil.

While he was on the farm, he invented a cotton planter. At the time of his death he had invented a cotton picking machine. He had perfected his plans for its manufacture. A picture of his machine and his patent were published in Popular Mechanics.

William Youens, builder and cabinet maker came to Navasota in 1868. He was just about 20 years old. He brought with him a Bible which had been given him by his singing class of Low-field Chapel, Dartford, England. It bore the inscription "Love and Esteem" and dates his departure from his native land. He was born April 14, 1848.

He was a master builder and built many of Navasota's best homes. He married Miss Mary Kennard, daughter of Judge and Mrs. John B. Kennard. Her father was the first superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School in 1879.

He formed a partnership with Mr. Ernest Lord and they were the builders of three of Navasota's churches. The name of Youens and Lord and that of Mr. Alexander McFarland are imprinted on the side of the Presbyterian Church. They also built the Catholic Church which was recently replaced with a larger and more ambitious building and the beautiful little Episcopal Church.

Mr. Youens was the oldest member of the Presbyterian Church choir, having been a member of that church since it began. He was indeed one who contributed in the growth and building of Navasota. He died February 27, 1930 at the age of 81.

His mantle has fallen on worthy shoulders for his son Herbert is one of Navasota's finest building contractors. As they regarded his father, so do his fellow townsmen regard him as a fine builder and a man of honesty and efficiency.

Besides Herbert, there are living four other children Annie, Eme, Clifton and Rufus.

Among the interesting families who have lived in Navasota are the Levys. Meyer Levy left Germany in 1848. After a short while in England, he emigrated to America. About 1850 he landed at Norfolk, Virginia. He was a merchant trader throughout the South before the war between the states. He appears to have traded up and down the Brazos River as early as 1858. He went to California during the Gold Rush via Panama. About this time he married Jane Hart of Georgia.

During the war he was a privateer for the Confederacy, carrying a letter of marque from Jefferson

Davis. For the duration of the war his family lived in New Orleans. He made many trips to England and to the West Indies, carrying out raw materials and returning with munitions and medicine, running the Northern Blockade. After the capture of New Orleans, Jane was made prisoner-of-war by the Yankees. It is said it was for impertinence to a Yankee officer. Fortunately, she was paroled to her brother-in-law, who was a Federal Non-Com. At the time she was made prisoner, her son Pink was born. After the war, Meyer came back to Texas. Having a ship and very little cash and being a far sighted individual, realizing that with the freeing of the slaves, Texas would be in need of farm labor, and knowing that emigrants were available in Poland because of the recent massacre of 10, 000 Polish Catholics, he entered into an agreement with Colonel Smither of Huntsville, who had thousands of acres of land, but no labor to farm it. He went back to Europe and enlisted the emigrants. He had many misadventures. He stopped in New York on his return trip to stock up on provisions and turned his shipload of passengers loose to see the city. At sailing time none of them reappeared.

Not to be deterred, he made another trip to Poland. This time there were no stops until the ship had reached Galveston and the first Polish colony in East Texas was successfully established at Old Waverly in Walker County. This early colony was soon augmented by many Polish families who followed the original group and settled in Grimes County.

Later, Mr. Levy was in Mexico with Emperor Maximilian during his ascendency. At the end of this ill-starred adventure, he came back to Texas. Later, he engaged in the real estate business and with others established the towns of Abilene and of Jewett, Buffalo and Marquez in Leon County.

In 1867, his faithful wife, Jane joined him in Texas by a circuitous trip from New Orleans. She brought with her, her young children. They traveled by steamer to Jefferson, Texas, then by ox-cart to Leon County where Meyer was busy laying out towns in advance of the approach of the railroad from Northeast Texas. Jane had five children, Pink, Sam, Harry, Celia and Rachel.

In the early '70's Meyer moved to Navasota and operated a general merchandise store on Washington Avenue. He remained in business until his death in Navasota.

Meyer had ten brothers and sisters all younger than he. With his help, all but one eventually came to Texas and all lived in Navasota at one time or another. Those who lived in Navasota were Simon Levy, Mary Levy Cohen, Mrs. Ernestine Levy Goodman, Mrs. Pauline Levy Landman, Mrs. Balbina Levy Gabert and Herman Levy.

Jane died in Navasota in 1875. The five young children were placed in boarding schools, the boys in the private school of the famous Rabbi Mielziener in New York City and the girls were sent to Baylor Female Seminary at Independence. Pink went to A & M College and to Southwestern at Georgetown where he received his B. A. degree at an early age. Pink was married to Theresa Schoenfield of Arkansas, who died shortly after they were married.

In 1904 Pink married Millie Jacobs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jacobs. Their children were Meyer and Hennie Jeane Levy Gelber of Baytown.

Pink was in the real estate business and had a large furniture store. He built several commercial and residential buildings in Navasota and opened several sub-divisions in Navasota. He was alderman and a member of the school board. He died in 1903.

Stella Martin Brosig was born in Anderson in 1876 and died in Navasota in 1947. She was the daughter of the late John F. and Alice Stephens Martin.

Mr. Martin was a member of Hood's brigade and was present at Lee's surrender at Appomatox Courthouse. He was county treasurer at one time and was in the mercantile and cotton business in Anderson before moving to Navasota.

He and Mrs. Martin were the parents of nine children: Bell, (Mrs. G. C. Stoneham) John S; Kate (Mrs. M. Menger), Maude (Mrs. J. T. Evans), Stella (Mrs. J. Wallace Brosig), Jeanette (Mrs. R. A. Sangster), Charles, Wallace and Donald.

All the children have passed away except Mrs. J. T. Evans.

Mrs. Brosig was active in civic, social and religious activities of Navasota throughout her life. She was a member of the Baptist Church and held various offices in the women's work of the church. She also sang in the choir. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Confederacy, serving as president of both organizations. She probably contributed more than any one woman in keeping alive in the hearts of the people Navasota and Grimes county's historical signifi-

cance. One of her chief accomplishments was her work in connection with the restoration of Washington State Park as a shrine of Texas history. She was secretary of the Washington State Park committee and later chairman during the time the auditorium was designed and built.

Mrs. Menger, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1926 was prominent throughout the state in her work with the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was Recording Secretary of the Texas Division U. D. C. at one time and served as president for the local chapter for several years. She was prominent in the promotion of church activities in the Baptist Church.

Charles died at Fort Sam Houston while a soldier in the United States Army.

Navasota Examiner - May 1, 1899

Mrs. Caroline H. Hill - She Gave to Anderson the Odd Fellows' Cemetery and Was Known to Early History.

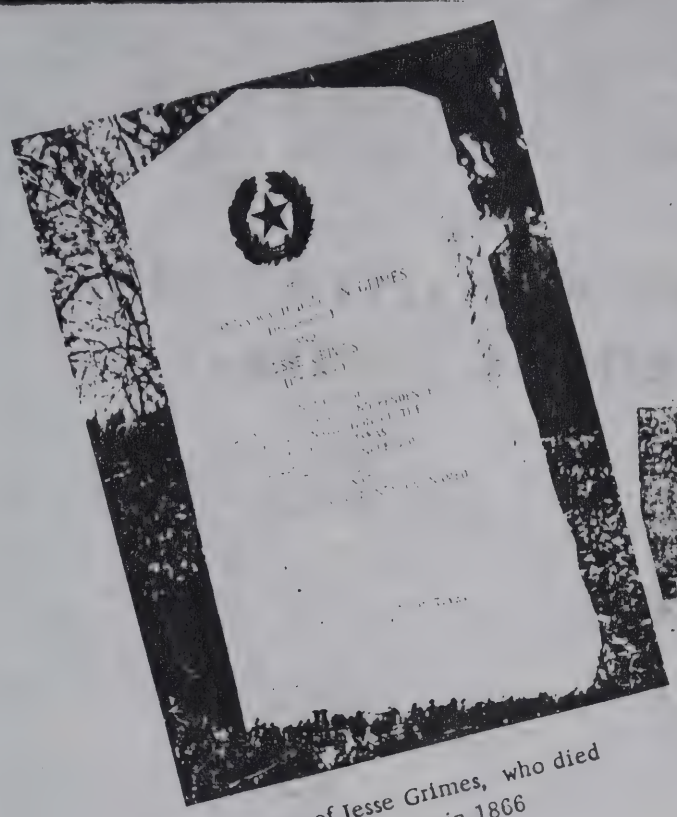
Mrs. Caroline Hadley Hill departed this life at Anderson, Grimes County, Texas, on April 28, 1899, and her mortal remains were buried in the Odd Fellows' cemetery beneath nature's virgin oaks, in the family burial ground, beside the graves of her beloved, who had gone before, which graveyard is a perpetual monument in memory of the virtuous woman who donated same to the people - by whom she was loved - in which to bury their dead. She was born on the 22nd day of December, 1823, at Augusta, Georgia; but as early as 1833, she joined the company of brave men and courageous women, who wended their way through the western wilds and established for themselves homes and a nation in the land of flowers, wresting their beautiful country from the Indians and Mexicans. Among all the daughters of these pioneers, none were fairer or more beautiful to look upon than she; and everywhere she was recognized as one of the belles of Texas. This remarkable beauty she preserved until the last; and in her casket she reposed as one in sweet slumber.

At the early age of fourteen she was married to Maj. Jno. F. Martin, one of the heroes of the Texas-Mexican war. This union was blessed with four children: Wm. A. Martin, John F. Martin, Winston Travis Martin and Mrs. Margaret Wilson, the three last of whom survive her. Mrs. Martin, the widow of said Wm. A. Martin, resided with and comforted her in her declining years. After Maj. Martin - who had served his country in war and peace, amid trials, sufferings, and dangers of the early settlement of Texas, honored by his fellowmen, had been laid to rest - the first person buried in what is now the Odd Fellows' graveyard, Mrs. Caroline Martin was married to Hon. P. H. P. Hill, Rev. A. Buffington performing the marriage ceremony, at Anderson, Texas, November 3rd, 1847. Of him, it was truly said, "Her husband is known in the gates where among the elders of the land." During the war between the states in 1864 he was gathered to his Fathers, and his remains interred in the family lot in the Odd Fellows' Cemetery. Nine children were born to them, two of them died while infants, and two others, Mrs. Alice Jennings and Paul Hill preceded her to the other shore. Five children viz., Gibbs Hill, Joshua Hill, Reuben P. Hill, Benjamin J. Hill and Mrs. Mary Harrison survive her. Her descendants are numerous, including six great grandchildren. Her children rise up and call her blessed. The Christian religion shone as a bright light in her character from early youth to hoary age. She nurtured her children in the admonition of the Lord, and they have all filled honorable positions among their fellowmen. Youth and age gathered at her hospitable house and went away refreshed by the quiet example of her life, and endearing words of encouragement to walk in the paths of duty. She is believed to be the last woman in Grimes County to survive what is known in Texas history as the run away escape to the Sabine, when Santa Anna invaded Texas in 1836, at which time all the women and children fled for their lives and endured untold hardships. Her Bible was her constant companion in her last days and when the Master came she answered: "I am glad."

A vast throng attested their sincere affection by paying the last tribute to her memory by joining in the burial services while the pall bearers F. Brigance, J. M. Siddall, T. C. Buffington, Joel T. Smith, W. W. Meachum and John H. Kennard, bore, with careful hands, her body to the grave. Rev. J. R. Cason delivered, at the grave, an eloquent tribute to the virtues of the deceased; and weeping women covered with fragrant flowers her last resting place. A mother in Israel has passed from death unto life eternal, not as the heathen without hope, but with the blissful assurance of a home in heaven, and celestial glory.

May God bless her children and descendants to the latest generation; and help them to feel that their temporal loss is her eternal gain, and that following in her footsteps, "they shall meet her again in the New Jerusalem, to part from her no more forever."

W. W. M.



Home of Jesse Grimes, who died at Grimes Prairie in 1866

Bechtol Home

Original Home built by the founder of Schumacher Oil Co. of Navasota, Texas

School Award to B. H. Schumaker, son of H. Schumaker

Charles Asher Stone came to Navasota from Cordova, Tennessee in the period preceding the Civil War. He drove a wagon in a "wagon trail" from the State of Tennessee to Texas. Some of the original 500 acres of land around Yarborough he acquired is in the hands of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Daniel Cabeen, grandfather of Mrs. C. A. Harrington (Mary Stone) came to Navasota from Georgia and through the years acquired considerable land in the Retreat Community.

An unusual story of fidelity of a Negro slave is traditional in each of the above families. Both grandmothers were left with their slaves to make crops while their husbands were in the service of the Confederate States of America. Each had one of the older slaves sleep on the front porch at night for protection.

The R. A. Patout Company

The R. A. Patout & Co. business house is one of the oldest in this area, having been established in 1892. It has been in the same location continuously. This organization occupies the Foster Building, a red brick building having a nice frontage on Main Street.

R. A. Patout, who established this firm was born January 19, 1870. He lives in Navasota and takes an active part in the business. However, he relinquished active management of it to his son, R. A. Patout Junior, January 1, 1952. This firm has been credited with being the first to introduce ladies' ready-to-wear in Navasota.

The Patout family came to Louisiana from France during the last century. R. A. Patout, Sr. was born on Enterprise Plantation at Patoutville, Louisiana. He came to Texas at the age of 16.

Chapter XIV

SOME EARLY BUSINESS FIRMS AND THEIR MASTERS

The J. Youens Lumber Company

The J. Youens Lumber Company is the oldest business in Navasota to have been continuously in business since the late '60's. It was established by Joseph Brooks, who had moved to Navasota from Washington. Mr. Brooks first had a planing mill and workshop where the Crapp home is today, and next to the lovely old home on Washington Avenue, which he later built for his family. Here it was that he made coffins for yellow fever victims in 1867.

Mr. Jesse Youens came into the business as a partner in 1871. By then the business had grown enormously and the location had been moved to the site where it now is, between Railroad and Tenth Streets. In the meantime Mr. Youens returned to England to marry, still retaining his partnership. After his return he opened a lumber yard in Dallas, which he closed in 1873. He opened a lumber yard in Austin where he lived for several years, and again returned to Navasota to put into operation, a planing mill which was one of the first in Texas.

Since few saw mills had planes, they shipped their rough lumber here for dressing in transit. The planing mill was equipped with many machines for dressing and matching lumber; picket and moulding machines and lathes for making the ornamental wood trimming, which was so popular in the early days.

At the death of Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Brooks continued in the firm until 1899, when her interests were purchased by Mr. Youens. Mr. Youens passed away in 1921; after that the business was operated by his sons, the late Ernest Youens, who died in 1949, and A. J. Youens, who is presently managing the business.

Mr. Youens was a man of high purpose and fine integrity. He was an artist at heart, having a love for all things fine and beautiful. I am not sure whether he actually did any painting but I am sure he was very skillful with his hands. He carved beautiful and intricate toys for the children that he loved and did not cease to use this gift as long as he lived.

He was sworn into the 2nd Texas Infantry in 1864, with Ashbel Smith, commanding. He was a slight stripling of a lad, wearing a homespun suit and shoes he had made for himself. He only weighed 118 pounds and could scarcely carry his heavy Enfield rifle.

He told of a little ship "Will-o-Wisp," which was running the blockade. It was grounded four miles down Galveston Island. A heavy fog hid it from the Federal fleet, so he with 30 others attempted to save her cargo of coffee, blankets, and soldiers uniforms. They had taken quite a lot of it to the beach when the fog lifted, and the Yankees sighted the little ship. The Yankees opened fire. The rebels escaped to their quarters with some of the precious coffee which was a rare treat after having used parched corn and dried okra seed.

He went back to the farm for a time after the war, but soon moved to Navasota, where he became partner with Mr. Brooks. He came back to Navasota just after the yellow fever epidemic of 1867. He rode into town on horseback one frosty night in November. He was appalled at what he saw. Every other house seemed to be empty, as indeed it was. The shadow of death still brooded over it, and a feeling of desolation and despair pervaded the air.

His life was enriched with manifold interests - music, books, and a great love for the sea. He always kept an organ in his home, and for forty years he was a member of the Presbyterian choir.

He served as secretary of the School Board until ill health forced his resignation. He kept the records of the Cemetery and made and inscribed many head markers of wood for graves which would otherwise remain unmarked. He was a man who enriched the lives of all who were privileged to know him.

Arthur Youens, who is manager of the Youens Lumber Company, is a worthy son of his illustrious father. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He served as Sunday School Superintendent for a period of years. He was on the city commission from 1928 to 1946; he was mayor from 1930 to 1937; and he also acted as city manager in the absence of R. J. Brule in 1942. He was married to Blake Gibbs, daughter of Laura Wilson Gibbs and Blake Gibbs. The Arthur Youens have one son, Lewis Ernest Youens of Houston, who is a prominent young architect in Houston.

Chinski Dry Goods Company

The Chinski Dry Goods Company was established in 1866, and remained continuously in business until Mr. Chinski's death in 1919.

Isaac Yaro Chinski came to this country from Pozan, Poland in about 1850. He was a lad about 12. His mother had died when he was born and his father, who manufactured flour, had died a short time before he came to America. His brothers and sister, all much older than he, decided to send him to this country to live with a cousin, who was a bachelor and who had prospered in the states. He came to New York in the care of Mrs. Levy, the wife of the founder of Levy Dry Goods Company of Houston.

When he reached Cincinnati, his destination, he found out at the hotel where his cousin lived; that the cousin had gone out of town on business, but he had instructed the clerk to take care of the small boy.

The hotel looked rather grand to the lad and as he had just a small amount of money, he decided he would look for another place to stay. He spoke German and did not know a word of English. He wandered across the Ohio River to Covington, Kentucky. Here he ran into some little German boys who spoke his language. They had trays of pearl buttons which they sold in the vineyards. They got him a tray of buttons and he stayed with one of the boys in his home and earned his board and keep until his cousin returned.

He went with his cousin to Nashville, Tenn. where he lived for perhaps four years. He went to a boys' school there, the only formal education he ever received. His cousin decided to move to New Orleans where he died with yellow fever.

Being the only relative of his deceased cousin, young I.Y. as he was always known, inherited his cousin's substance. He came to Houston where he met Col. E.M. House. Mr. House urged him to invest his inherited capital in Houston real estate: Mr. Chinski was not interested because Houston was then a village of wood buildings and muddy streets. He came instead, to Leon County where he married Harriet Pegues Boggs.

At the outbreak of the war, he enlisted in Gould's Battalion, and was at the fall of Arkansas Post.

He came to Navasota in 1866, and that same year he purchased the property on Washington Avenue, where he built his store and remained in active business throughout his life.

He had the largest general store in the community. He bought and sold cotton and opened one of the earliest banks in Navasota. Mr. Cooper Talliaferro was cashier of the I.Y. Chinski Bank. His son Earl Chinski carried on the business for a few years after his father's death, but later went into wholesale, candy, cigarette, tobacco, and drug sundry business, which he operated until his death in 1938. The store building, which was rebuilt is still in possession of the family.

The I.Y. Chinskis were the parents of ten children. Clarence, the eldest, was born on Mr. Chinski's Redland farm in Leon County while Mr. Chinski was in the Confederate Army. He was born in 1863. He was a member of the first graduating class of A&M College and the first captain of the Navasota Guard. All the other children were born in Navasota on the spot where Mr. Chinski built his first home in 1866. They were Agusta Alice (Mrs. J.M. Culbert), Alvah Adolph, Margaret Cornelia (Mrs. James M. Callaway), Louis Lee, Adele (Mrs. H. Lee Roan), Harriet Pegues (Mrs. J.R. Campbell), Irma Vera (Mrs. J.M. Frisby), Maurine and Earl.

L.J. Wilson and Co.

Lewis James Wilson was born in Harwinton, Connecticut, December 12, 1832. His parents moved to Marion, Alabama when he was an infant. When he was 14, he was sent North to complete his education, and there he remained until he was 19.

His family had long been prominent in the history of Connecticut. His father was Samuel Wilson, a merchant of large means. After moving to Alabama, the elder Wilson engaged in the mercantile business until 1851, which time he came to Texas and established a business at Anderson. His partner in business was Chester M. Case. The firm name was Case & Wilson.

The son, Lewis James, was bookkeeper and general manager of the business, and later acquired an interest in the business.

L.J. Wilson was a member of Captain J.B. Alston's Company, Carter's 21st Regiment of the Texas cavalry for two years during the war between the states. He was honorably discharged due to physical disabilities. Returning to Anderson, he was made chief clerk of the ordnance department, serving in that

capacity for the duration.

Immediately after the war he became a merchant in his own name. In 1866 he was associated with James Q. Yarborough and in 1869 W.R. Howell joined the firm. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Yarborough moved to Navasota, leaving Mr. Howell with the Anderson store.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Yarborough built their large two-story brick store near the railroad on the west side of town in 1871. This was the first brick building in town and it cost $18,000.00. This building is still in use, being presently occupied by Meyer Smith, grocer.

In 1875, Mr. Yarborough withdrew from the firm and the business was continued under the firm name of Wilson and Howell, for six years.

Mr. Howell retired at this time, and Mr. Wilson continued in the business until his death in 1895.

From then on, the business was conducted under the management of Horace N. Bissell, who was a cousin of Mr. Wilson's and who had worked in the store for a number of years.

In 1858, Mr. Wilson was married in Harwinton, Connecticut to Miss Lucy Perkins of that city. To this union were born two children, Laura and Sam. Laura became the wife of William Blake Gibbs of Plantersville and Kosse. Their children are Lewis Thomas, Lucy Perkins (Mrs. Carl R. Blackman) of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mary Blake Gibbs of Dallas, and Laura Blake (Mrs. Arthur Jesse Youens) of Navasota. Sam was married to Miss May Matthews of Navasota.

Lewis James Wilson died in 1895 after a 24 hour illness. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Schumacher Oil Works

H. Schumacher, one of Navasota's most distinguished citizens, was born in Germany, November 25, 1832. He died in Navasota May 25, 1901. He came to Galveston with his mother in 1847; his father having died, which made him feel a responsibility toward the support of his mother and the younger children. He learned the carpenters trade and contributed his part to the family living fund. He came to Anderson in 1855, having in the meantime married. His wife suffered an attack of yellow fever, from which she never completely recovered; and she died a few months after he reached Anderson. In 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a member of the Eighth Infantry, Walkers Division.

He came to Navasota in 1865 where he started a sash and door factory. He camped under a post oak tree, got out the necessary timbers, and built his home and shop.

He added a grist mill, then a gin and planing mill, and ran them all successfully until 1873. At that time he turned his attention to the cotton seed oil business and built a mill for the various products from cotton seed.

Although there were one or two mills established in Texas prior to the opening of the Schumacher Oil works, June 10, 1873, none of them is in existence today, which gives the Schumacher Oil Mill the distinction of being the oldest cotton seed Oil Mill in the state.

It was in 1872 that Mr. Schumacher decided to engage in the crushing of Cotton seed, an industry then in its infancy. At that time, cotton seed were worthless, other than the small proportion of the seed which was required for planting purposes.

A small frame building, 25 by 50 feet was built to house the machinery. It arrived early in 1873. It consisted of two Calahan six-box presses and one delinting machine. After two years, the capacity of the mill was doubled with the installation of two more presses and another delinting machine. In 1877, a two story rock building was erected for the mill part, which is a part of the plant today.

Cotton seed hulls had no value in the beginning of the industry. Sometimes they were used for fuel, and Mr. Schumacher often gave them away. At one time a ton sold for $2.00. They finally came into their own, through Mr. Schumacher's ingenuity.

The railroad company built a side-track on which freight cars were switched to take on mill products for shipment. These box cars were drawn back and forth by two pairs of huge oxen. The oxen subsisted on corn. They were big eaters and could consume quantities of corn. This was a big expense. Mr. Schumacher decided to experiment with cotton seed hulls as feed for his oxen. He mixed it with cotton-seed meal and fed it to one pair of oxen while he kept the other pair in a separate pen and fed them corn. It was astonishing indeed to discover the pair feeding on hulls and meal, loved the dish, and waxed fatter and sleeker than the corn-fed pair. It's needless to say; thereafter, the feed bill for the oxen dwindled

and the oxen thrived.

On a trip to the Cotton Exposition in 1885, in New Orleans, Mr. Schumacher saw the first press room machinery ever to be exhibited in this country. It was made by Rose, Downs and Thompson of Hull, England. The new English presses were of the plate system; 15 plates to the press, making 12½ cakes to the press. Mr. Schumacher purchased two presses with the necessary machinery for operation. It is said that this was the first plate press system to be installed in the United States.

In 1884 Chester A. Arthur, then President of the United States, invited Mr. Schumacher to be guest of honor at a banquet which he gave in the White House in recognition of Mr. Schumacher's contribution to the cotton seed oil mill industry.

Mr. Schumacher held many positions of trust in this community. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian church, and a ruling elder at the time of his death. He was one of the early presidents of the First National Bank.

The Schumacher Oil Works was incorporated in 1901. It has a capital stock amounting to $120,000.00, and it manufactures cotton seed oil, cake and reginnings. It refines white and yellow oil and soap stock. In 1910 the mill was destroyed by fire. After this, all new machinery was installed. A planer in the machine shop was the only piece of original equipment saved.

In July, 1953, a new Anderson expeller unit was installed at the cost of $100,000. It is completely automatic and makes it possible for two men to do the work of ten.

Cotton seed cake used to come in large ungainly slabs. Now small uniform cubes are made possible by a new pellet machine.

Henry Wesson, grandson of H. Schumacher, is president of the company, and Miss Emma Schumacher, his daughter, is Vice President; Charles Jacoby, a son-in-law of Mr. Wesson, is manager.

Mr. Wesson is a musician of outstanding talent. He had his musical education in New York, Brussels, and Paris. He was appointed by the Belgium government to assemble the carillons during the Chicago exhibition, being that he was one of two men in the United States who had been trained to do carillon assembly.

Mrs. Wesson is also a pianist of distinction. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wesson were in the music department of Ward-Belmont College in Nashville, and in that of Chicera College for Women at Columbia, South Carolina.

The Wessons and Miss Emma Schumacher live in the beautiful old ancestral home which was built in 1884. It has distinct charm and contains a connoisseur's dream in lovely old walnut and mahogany furniture with which it is furnished.

Ferdinand Wallace Brosig

Brosig's Hardware Store was an institution in Navasota from the time it opened until the time of Mr. Brosig's death in 1893. His father-in-law, Mr. J.P. Shafer, originated the store in the early '60's. At a later period, Mr. Brosig, who was employed by Mr. Shafer, bought him out. The store was one of the early stone buildings of the town, and was a very large one, carrying everything from a screw driver to farm machinery. When crockery was added, patrons were able to find the choicest of art pieces and china. At an early period, Mr. Brosig stocked French Haviland china. Once as souvenirs, he gave away plates, salad size, which are practically museum pieces today, having been manufactured in Dresden, Germany.

He was always a jump ahead of the times. Once at a fair held at the Navasota Fair grounds, he offered a prize of a Charter Oak cooking range to the young lady who could make the best biscuits on the stove, which he had set up ready for cooking on the grounds. Misses Carrie and Edith Smith, daughters of the late Fayette Smith were competitors, as was Miss Annie Brigance, daughter of Mr. Franklin Brigance, our first tax assessor-collector. Miss Annie decided to let the Smith girls have the first try in order to break in the stove. The Smith girls' biscuits were delectable, light, high and fluffy, but sure enough, the next day when Miss Annie tried her hand at it, her strategy paid off, for her biscuits were "out of this world," and she won the stove.

Mr. Brosig was born in Neisse, Germany on October 31, 1842. He was seven years old when he came to America with his parents, Joseph and Agusta Brosig. They reached Galveston in 1849 and traveled to Houston, where they made their home and where Mr. Brosig spent his early boyhood. His

parents died while he was yet a child. He enlisted in the Confederate Army, H.B. Andrew's Regiment, and was stationed on Galveston Island. Later he had charge of the Mechanical Department of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate States Army, and was stationed at Anderson, Texas. Here he remained for the duration, coming to Navasota in 1867. That year he married Miss Josephine Shafer of Anderson. Her parents were located in Houston in 1848. The Brosigs made their home in Navasota from that time forward. When the yellow fever broke out, Mrs. Brosig contracted the disease and died. Mr. Brosig nursed her through her illness. He continued, heroically, to nurse and care for the other victims of the dread disease, and helped bury the dead, but he never contracted the fever himself.

Between 1871 and 1886, he sustained three serious business losses by fire. But each time, being a man of great determination and strong character, he built back better and bigger businesses. His business was known and patronized all over this trade area.

It was mainly through his efforts that the First National Bank was established. He was elected President and continued to serve until his death.

When he died, the entire community gathered to do him homage. He was buried with Masonic honors from the Episcopal church with Rev. J.R. Dunn reading the burial service.

His widow survived him and seven children: Annie (Mrs. P.B. Bookman), Eleanor (Mrs. J. Watts Brown), Mattie (Mrs. Ewing Norwood), Nettie, and Wallace. After the death of Mr. Brosig, Wallace continued the business for a number of years.

W.B. Templeman Store

The Templeman store was the largest and most ambitious in the city, in its prime. It had a complete line of dry goods, ready-to-wear, millinery, piece goods, and novelties; besides a grocery, hardware departments, and a large cotton buying business. Its buyers visited the New York and St. Louis markets several times yearly to keep the stock up-to-date. Mr. W.S. Milroy and Mr. Jim Harrison were in charge of the cotton business. Mr. Doss Franklow was one of the head bookkeepers. Rupert Brooks worked in the store in the drygoods department for many years. Miss Emma Miller was one of the early milliners.

Major Templeman was born in Dumfermile, Scotland on June 24, 1830. He was the son of Margaret and William Templeman.

He came to the United States when he was sixteen to work for Mr. Birrell, for whom he was named. Mr. Birrell was in the import and export business in Boston. Mr. Templeman heard Jenny Lind sing at the Battery in New York the first night he was in this country.

He worked in Boston for a year, then worked in New York for two years. He saw an advertisement in a New York paper from a Mr. Scott of Palestine, Texas. He called on Mr. Scott in New York and made arrangements to come to Texas. There were no railroads to Palestine then, so he took a boat to Galveston and another to Magnolia, ten miles from Palestine.

He was in the general mercantile business in Palestine with Mr. Elson. There he became a citizen of the United States. He and Mr. Elson moved their business to Navasota to have the advantage of Railroad facilities.

In 1870, he bought Mr. Elson's interests in the business, and continued in that business until his death. He had extensive farm lands in Grimes, Montgomery, and Washington counties. He owned the Navasota Compress and at one time had controlling interest in the Schumacher Oil Works.

His wife was Anne Maria Hunter of Galveston. He died January 28, 1924 at the age of 93. His children, all of whom have since died, were Ward B. Templeman, Mrs. S.J. Emory, Mrs. S.M. Cook, and Miss Beulah Templeman.

Ward Birrell Templeman, who was associated with his father in business, was born in Galveston, April 18, 1869. He attended Eastman's College in New York. He was married to Miss Annie Templeman in 1895. He founded the Navasota Telephone Company in 1895; was a member of the Brazos Reclamation Board from its origin until his death; was a member of the Board of Regents of the State Teachers College at Huntsville; was chief of the Navasota Volunteer Fire Company for many years, and was twice Mayor of Navasota. He died in April, 1915.

H. A. Jacobs

H. A. Jacobs was born in Vilna, Poland and came to America in 1865. He worked in New York as a glazer, and went to Chicago where he became a junk dealer. He became an itinerent merchant through the states between Illinois and Texas. He stopped in Houston, where he could have bought land for a song, but he decided against it and came on to Navasota, arriving in 1872. He engaged in the mercantile business, first in a small way, but due to his versatility, his integrity, and his great love for people, his business grew large and prosperous. For that early of a date, his store was a beautiful one; fully stocked with choice and seasonable merchandise. He was the first Navasota merchant to hire sales ladies.

One of his men clerks, Tom Deadrick, went over to Austin and married a Miss Georgia Kirk. After the honeymoon, they returned to Navasota. Mrs. Deadrick, or Miss Georgia, as everybody was soon calling her, had been a saleswoman for Scarborough in Austin at the time of her marriage, so Mr. Jacobs offered her a position in his store.

It was a wise move, for the store. She was an attractive girl with a flair for wearing clothes of street, and had excellent style. Before very long, the young women of the town were buying their dress materials from Miss Georgia. She not only selected materials and trimmings for them, but she chose the pattern and even arranged for a dressmaker to make it. There were no ready-made dresses at that time.

He later sold his dry goods business and went into the wholesale Grocery business. This he also sold to J. T. Swanson. Mr. Jacobs was of the Jewish faith, but he loved everybody, and everybody loved him. He was particularly friendly with the ministers of various denominations, and sometimes he astonished them with his knowledge of the Bible. He loved good music and was behind every cultural movement in the city. He was director in the First National Bank until his death. He served on the School Board several times, and was charter member of the Yarboro Lake Club.

His wife was Miss Hennie Marks, whom he married in Europe. To these two were born four boys and three girls: Joe, Rachel, Bettina, Millie, Larry, Julius, and Isaac.

Miss Bettina, a talented singer, and her brother, Larry, still live in Navasota. Mr. Jacobs died in 1924.

Wilson and Yarborough

Col. J. Q. Yarborough and Lewis James Wilson organized a business in Navasota in 1871. They operated a partnership in a two story brick building near the railroad on the west side of town. The firm constructed the building at a cost of $18,000.00. It was reported to have been the first brick building in Navasota. McAdory and Brothers were the chief masons on this building, while Ragsdale, Brooks, and Darrow did the woodwork. This building today is occupied by Smith's Grocery. In 1875 Yarborough withdrew from the firm but the business was continued by Wilson and Howell for six more years, at which time Howell retired. Wilson continued the business alone until the time of his death in 1895. From that time on, the business was continued under the management of Horace W. Bissess, a cousin of Wilson's, who had worked with him since the early 70's.

Lewis James Wilson was born in Harwinton, Litchfield County, Connecticut on December 12, 1832. While yet an infant, his parents moved to Marion, Alabama, where they resided until he was 14 years old. He was then sent north to complete his formal education. There he remained until he was 19 years old. Wilson came of an old Connecticut family, one that had been prominent in the history of that state for years. His father, Samuel Wilson, a merchant of large means, moved from Connecticut to Marion, Alabama in the early 30's and there engaged in the mercantile business until 1851, when he came to Texas and established a business at Anderson; Grimes County, in partnership with Chester M. Case, under the firm name of Case and Wilson. The son, Lewis James, took the position of bookkeeper and general manager for the firm, and later acquired a proprietary interest in it.

Lewis James Wilson served as a member of Captain J. B. Alston's Company, Twenty-first (Carter's) Regiment of Texas Cavalry; Confederate States of American army. He served two active years in the Civil War, and was honorably discharged from active service on the field due to physical disabilities. Returning to Anderson, he was soon afterwards made chief clerk in the ordnance department at that place, remaining until the war was over. Immediately after the war, he began merchandising in his own name. In 1866 he associated himself with Col. J. Q. Yarborough, and in 1869, W. R. Howell was admitted to a partnership in the firm.

In 1858, Lewis James Wilson was married to Miss Lucy Perkins of Harwinton, Connecticut. To this

union were born two children, Laura and Sam. Miss Laura Wilson married William Blake Gibbs of Huntsville and Plantersville.

Their four children are Lewis, Thomas, Lucy Perkins (Mrs. Carl R. Blackman of Tulsa), Mary Blake of Dallas, Laura Blake Gibbs, (Mrs. Arthur Jesse Youens of Navasota). Sam was married to Miss Mary Matthews of Navasota.

Lewis James Wilson was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He died March 8, 1895, after an illness of only 24 hours.

Theatres in Early Navasota History

Navasota had several theatres in her early days. A little theatre group was organized here as early as 1885. It was then known as "The Dramatic Club." An early program of this organization is in the possession of Mrs. Watts Brown this day. Programs were rendered in the old P. A. Smith opera house, which was upstairs over the present First National Bank Building. Sometimes the organization used Mrs. Mattie Foster's opera house, which was upstairs over the present Empire Laundry. It is indefinite, which place was the scene of the following play.

The first part was a one-act play "Loan of a Lover." The characters were Captain Amersford--S. B. Rucker; Peter Spyk--T. D. Cobbs; Swyzel--Sam Patrick; Delvi--Clarence Chinski; Gertrude--Miss Laura C. Wilson; and Ernestine Rosendaal--Miss Effie Storey.

There was an intermission with music furnished by the Navasota String Band, followed by another one-act farce entitled "A Kiss in the Dark." The cast of characters were Mr. Pettibone--Charlie Kettler; Frank Fathom--Allen Demaret; Mrs. Pettibone--Miss Carrie Quinney; Mary--Miss Eveline Boone; and Unknown Female--Mrs. Titus Johnson.

Perhaps Navasota had better theatre facilities than most towns of its early days, for it is a fact that plays and stock companies played in Navasota that ordinarily made only cities. All during the season, there were Friday night performances and Saturday matinees.

Only the oldest living generation will remember Blind Tom, the famous Negro pianist. He was born a slave on the plantation of General Joseph Bethune, near Columbus, Georgia. Mrs. Bethune was an aunt of Mrs. John H. Owen, one of Navasota's pioneer women and the great-aunt of her daughters, Misses Julia and Jessica Owen, who live in Navasota.

Blind Tom

Mrs. Owen often visited her Aunt, Francis Bethune, with her two little girls. Tom was born blind and born an idiot; but he was harmless and played with the Bethune children, and their little cousins, the Owen children. His mother was a mulatto and quite musical, and used to sing alto when the children sang.

According to Miss Julia Owen, her mother attributed Tom's phenomenal musical memory to the fact that Tom's mother went up to Columbus to see a fire parade before Tom was born. She reports that Tom's mother came home "in ecstasy of delight."

Tom was hiding under the piano one day while Mrs. Bethune was playing on her square piano. When she had finished, Tom crawled out and asked her what she had been playing. Then to Mrs. Bethune's astonishment, he crawled on the piano stool and played the selection, note for note. This was the discovery of Tom's phenomenal talent. He had only to hear a piece played, no matter how intricate, but he could play it perfectly or as he had heard it played. This sounds like a tall tale, but it is absolutely true.

After the war, the Bethunes became impoverished, and decided to take Tom on tour for concert purposes. John Bethune became his manager. John, I believe, was a brother to General Joseph Bethune. John Bethune died and his widow refused to release Tom back to the Joseph Bethune family. He played for Queen Victoria and in all the capital cities of Europe, as well as those in the United States.

He played in Navasota in the old opera house in 1876, and again in 1895. There are several persons living in Navasota now who remember his last performance. He died in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1908, with his keepers, the Lerche family. He was not too well cared for as was noted in a tribute paid to him, and written by Henry Watterson in the Louisville Courier Journal.

Although of low intelligence, Tom composed several pieces--"Battle of Manassas," "Raindrop," and a Caprice.

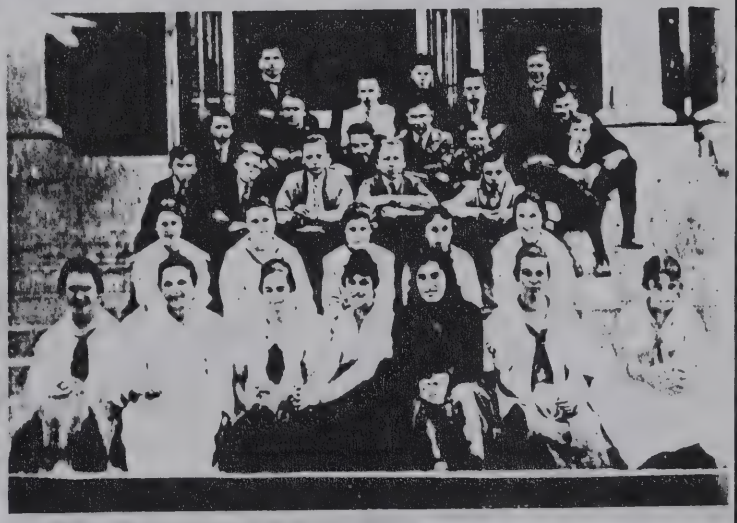
Adlaide Prince was born Lena Rubinstien in Millican about 1868.

She moved to Navasota when a young girl and went to private schools here. She was a great beauty, and took part in the Dramatic club plays with great success. She early in life had a yearning to go on the stage, but the Rubinstiens were not rich people, and perhaps did not think Len was too serious about it. When she was about 19 she met Harry Prince of Galveston, and married him. Mr. Prince was a man of means. After they had had two children, she still yearned for the stage. He, no doubt, thought she would tire of the hard work, and come back to him and their children. She never did. Eventually she and Mr. Prince were divorced and she pursued her career. She played in all the large cities with much success. She was married to Creston Clark, an actor of note in his era, and toured the country as his leading lady. They played a one-night stand and matinee in Navasota about 1890. The play was entitled "The Last of His Race."

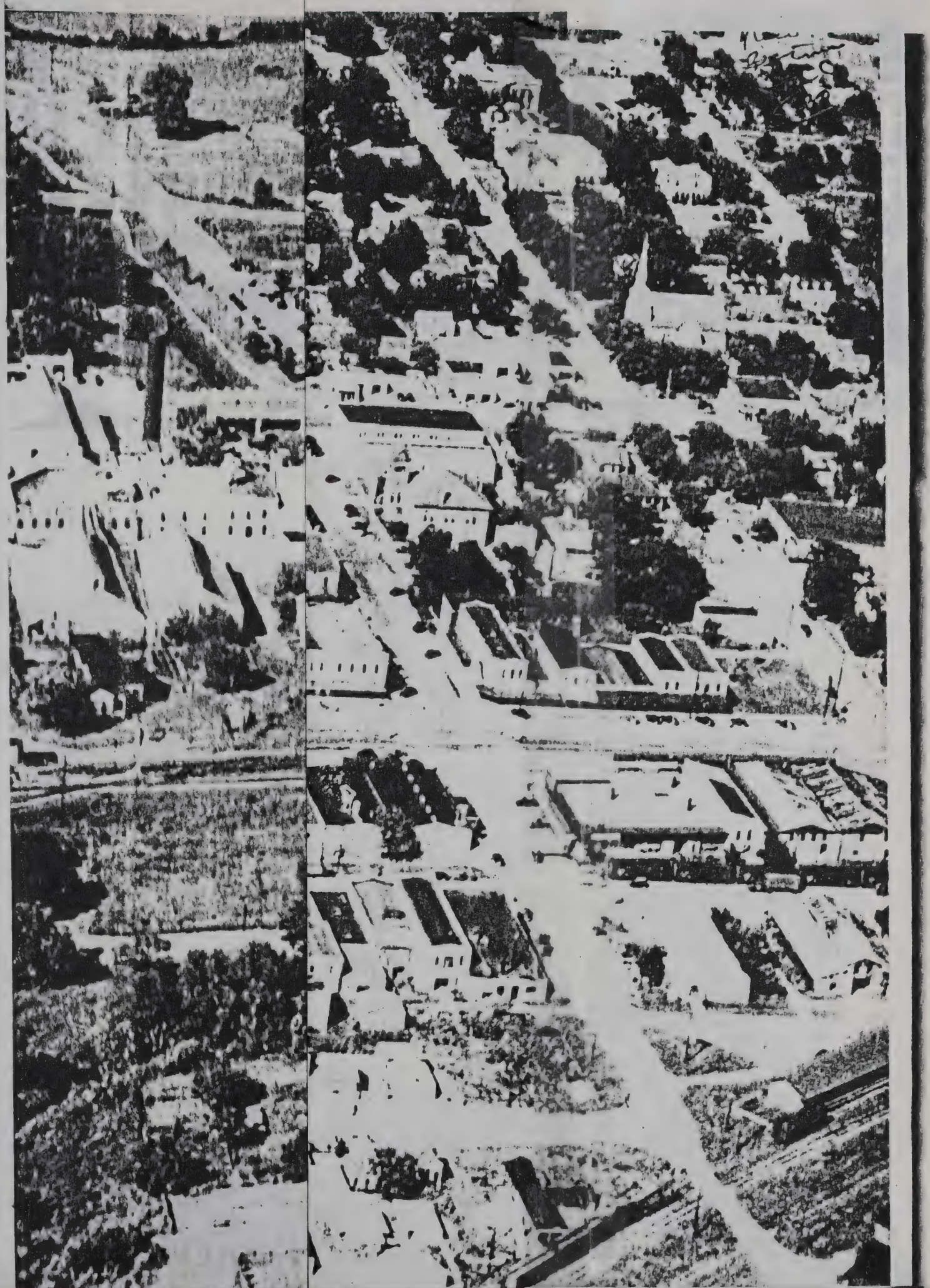
CLASS IN 1904-1905

CLASS IN 1902

CLASS IN 1905



CLASS IN 1916



6-27-50

Main Street, Navasota, Texas

J.H. McDonald on Tom Moore's Brazos Bottom Farm. Cotton was raised from Rogers Texacala Seed.

Navasota Bluebonnets

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Dallas, Texas

Harry Moore's New Cotton Gin on his Brazos River Bottom Farm Navasota, Texas.